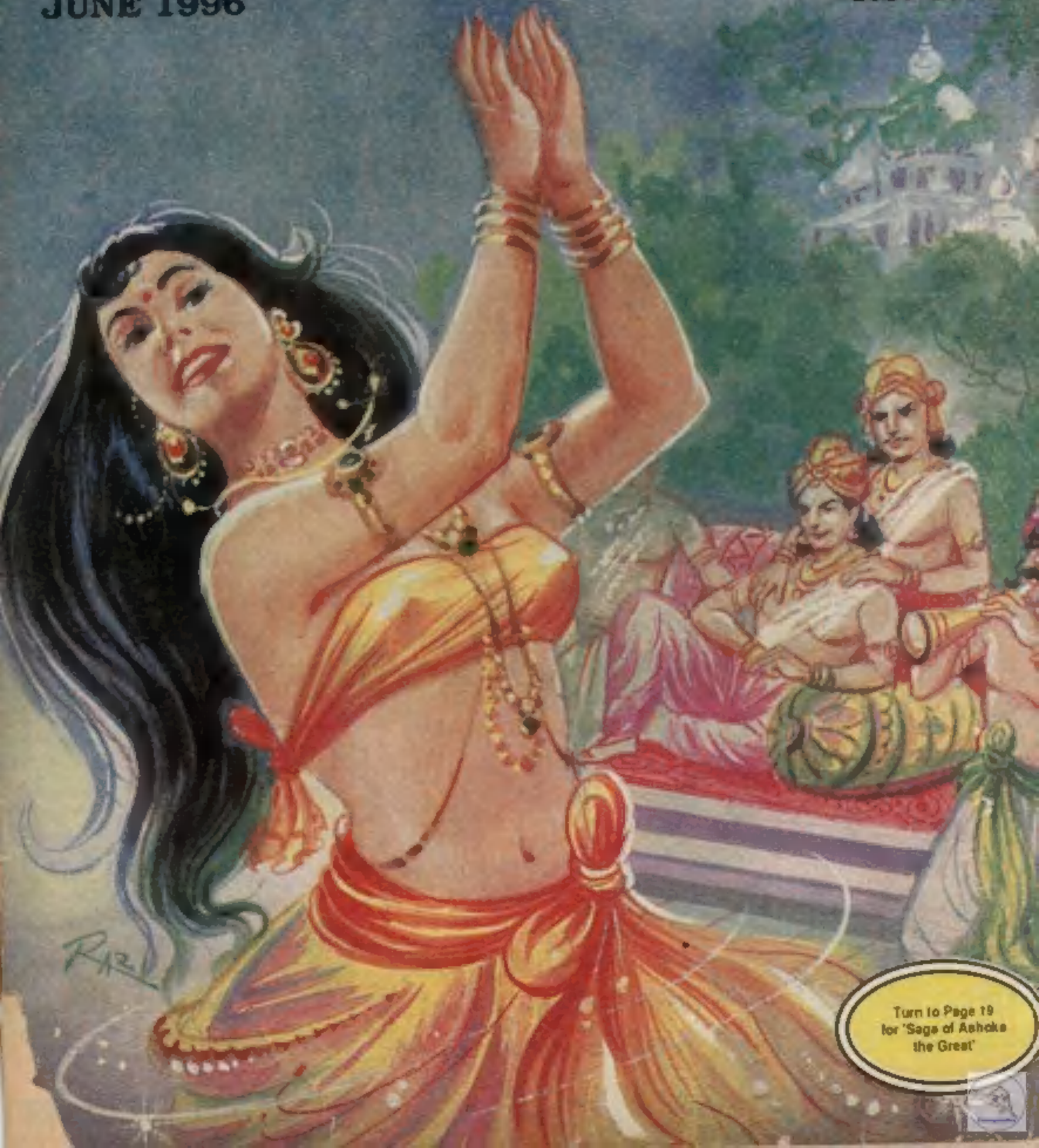


CHANDAMAMA

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FRIEND in School ?

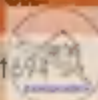


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An ANNOUNCEMENT and an APPEAL to our Subscribers

Dear Friends,

Your magazine, **Chandamama**, is soon to complete 50 years of publication. Not that the occasion warrants any change, but some changes have become necessary. **First:** Paper. We have all along been using only imported paper. In the recent years, we have been experiencing hardship not only in obtaining the required size and huge quantity of paper necessary for the magazine, but also in meeting their fluctuating costs – which always showed an upward trend.

The situation has become more complicated by a simultaneous rise in the cost of other factors that go into the making of an illustrated magazine – its printing and production.

As on earlier occasions, we have tried our best to absorb the shocks of such demands ourselves, without passing them onto our readers. But a point has been reached when we cannot but crave the indulgence of our readers and appeal to them to share a part of our increasing burden.

Second: Price. Beginning with the July 1996 issue, your magazine will cost a rupee more. It will be priced Rs.6.00 instead of Rs.5.00. The annual subscription, accordingly, will become Rs.72.00.

Third: Size. The size of the magazine will increase slightly, thereby taking in additional material for your pleasant reading. The revised format would celebrate the magazine's Golden Jubilee year, for, it will be reverting close to its original size.

We hope you will welcome these changes.

Wishing you all the best.

Yours sincerely

(B. Viswanatha Reddi)

Publisher



The summer heat was torturing kids on earth. Then...



The powers of heat and thirst were defeated by Milton and kids on earth were never thirsty after that day.



Milton introduces an out of the world way to keep water cold all through the day. Insulated with the revolutionary properties of TUF-PUF, they come in amazing shapes, sizes and designs. So fight the heat with Milton, you won't find a better friend.



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CHANDAMAMA

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And News Flash, Let Us Know and More!

NEXT ISSUE

Vol.27 JULY 1996 No. 1

FAITH HELPS: Subhas goes to Madangiri in search of job. He calls on the village chief. A portion of Kalipada's house is vacant. He can stay there and do odd jobs for the neighbours. So, he goes to Kalipada. Yes, he may stay in the house, free, but keep the place neat and tidy. That is the only job Kalipada can give him. Subhas meets Kuber the poet. He attends to all household chores himself and does not need any help. But he can spare a meal for Subhas every day. Does he accept the offer?

THE RESCUE: Veerangana is the princess of Vishalpur. King Veerendrasingh starts considering proposals for her marriage. Suddenly, she is missing. A search throughout the kingdom proves futile. Where has she disappeared? Nobody knows; nobody has seen her also. The king consults his ministers. They suggest calling in a wizard. With the help of his wizardry he finds that the girl has been kidnapped by a demon, who is threatening to kill her if she does not marry him within three months. A royal announcement promises the princess's hand to anyone who rescues her. Is there anyone in the kingdom so brave?

PLUS the story in comics form, **Immortal Friendship**, and the next instalment of **Coastal Journeys**.

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Founder
CHAKRAPANI



Controlling Editor :
NAGI REDDI

TRAGEDY IN APING

Man must have learnt the art of imitating from the ape from whom, biologists believe, man had evolved millions and millions of years ago. From this we got the expression 'aping', which is often used as something not very complimentary or advisable.

The TV is generally blamed for touching the base chords in human beings. The spate of criminal acts and the rise of criminal tendencies in men and women, young and old, are easily attributed to some of the undesirable programmes that are shown on the TV, whether the transmission is government-controlled or privately run.

'A picture is equal to a thousand words' is an oft-quoted statement. This applies equally to the 'visuals' seen on the TV, and they do not leave much to imagination. Sequences in these visuals have the magic of tickling one's sensation, goading the viewer to go in for real life action. This often ends in tragedy.

Like the tragic incident in Lucknow in April, when a 6-year-old boy lost his life while 'aping' something he saw on the TV. It is an advertisement for a well-known soft drink, in which an adventuresome young man is shown jumping from a height on to a truck loaded with the drink and catching hold of one of the bottles. He escapes with his life and the bottle as he is tied to a safety rope. Unfortunately, our little friend had taken no such precaution when he decided to jump down from his second floor balcony.

The moral of the story is – NO, not to shut your eyes on the TV, but not to be stupid enough to ape all that you see on what is often described as the 'idiot-box'.

Spain Votes for Change

The people of Spain wished for a change and voted out the Socialist Party, which had been ruling the country since 1982. In the March elections to Cortes, which is the Lower House of Parliament, the Socialists, led by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, could secure only 141 seats in the 350-member House, as against 156 seats won by the rightwing Popular Party, led by Mr. Jose Maria Aznar. The slender majority of that party still needed another 20 seats to gain absolute majority, which they secured with the help of two regional parties, the Catalan Nationalist Party which had won 16 seats, and the Basque Nationalists in 5 seats.

Why were the people unhappy with the Socialists? The Gonzalez Ministry had recently got itself involved in various scandals. The Interior Minister (a functionary like India's Home Minister) was blamed for the killing of some members of the opposition Basque nationalists by death-squads and he had to be removed from the Ministry. There were scams, too, in the wake of which the Catalan Nationalist Party withdrew its support to the Socialists and Mr. Gonzalez was forced to call for elections. The country's economy was strong, yet there was rampant unemployment, with nearly 40 per cent of the youth, who are less than

25 years old, going without jobs. All this had led to widespread discontent among the people.

During the Second World War (1939-45), Spain was ruled by a dictator, General Franco, who had sent the Spanish king into exile. In 1947, he announced that on his death, Spain would have monarchy once again and Prince Juan Carlos would succeed him. This came about only 28 years later, when General Franco died in 1975. Spain got a new constitution in 1978, when Adolfo Suarez, of the Democratic Party, became Prime Minister.

In the 1982 elections, the Socialist Workers Party, led by Mr. Gonzalez, won ■ sweeping victory. However, his popularity was on the wane in the next two elections. He was hoping for a fourth term in office, but people decided otherwise. His deputy leader remarked: "Never has ■ victory seemed ■ bitter, a defeat so soft."





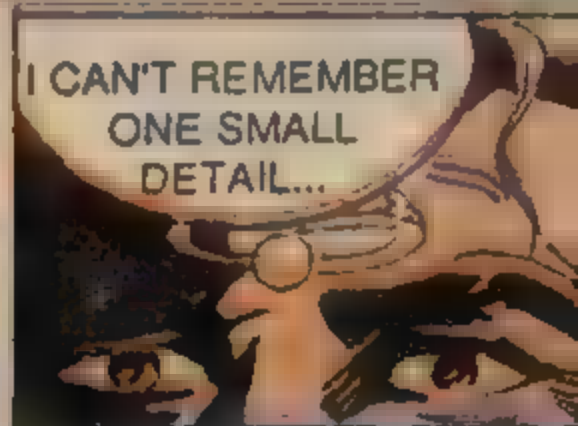
Golden Hour

The Ten Skulls

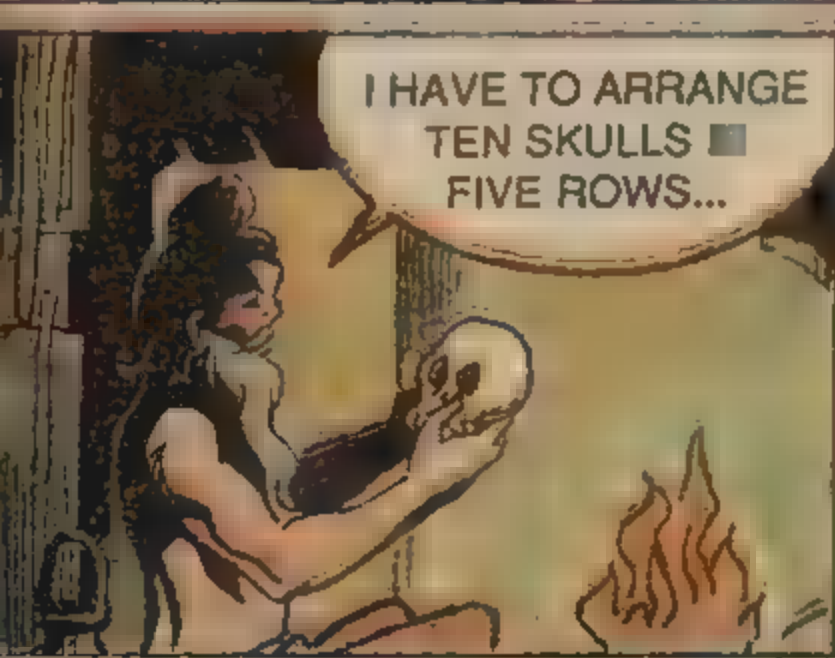
KOSHAL IS DROUGHT-STRICKEN.
KING ADITYA COMES TO SAGE
KAPALI FOR HELP.



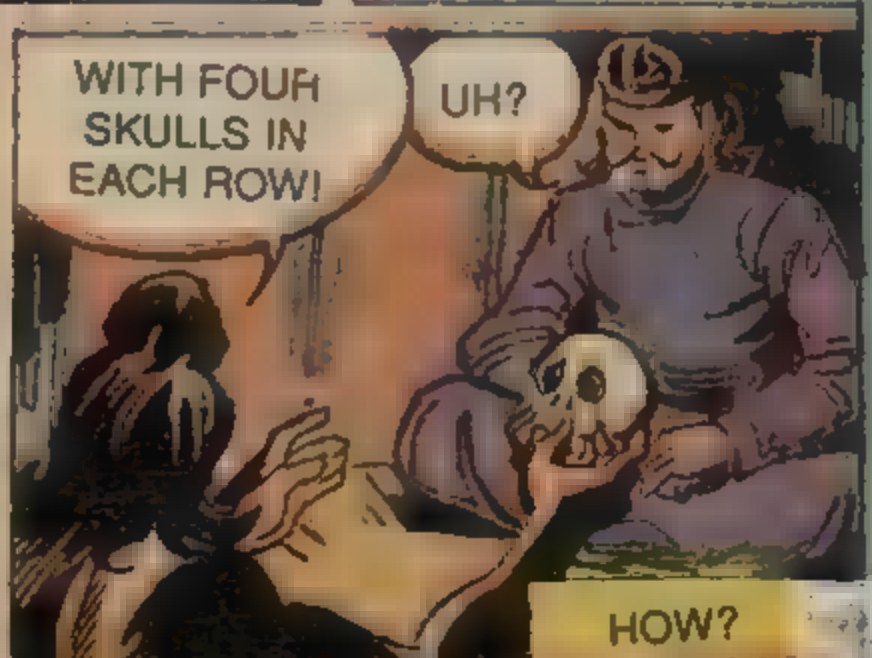
THERE IS A
TANTRIC YAGNA
FOR RAINS...
BUT —



I CAN'T REMEMBER
ONE SMALL
DETAIL...



I HAVE TO ARRANGE
TEN SKULLS ■
FIVE ROWS...



WITH FOUR
SKULLS IN
EACH ROW!

UH?

HOW?

Golden Hour TEASERS



1

Bhagwan Buddha was accosted by the dreaded dacoit, Angulimala, in the forest of Kosala. Angulimala intended to slay the Buddha and [redacted] his fingers to the garland of flowers he [redacted] wearing. But the Buddha made him see the error of [redacted] ways and the dacoit was transformed into [redacted] saint.

What was the name of the dacoit before he became Angulimala?



2

The Monster Invasion

An animal [redacted] early European settlers brought into Australia has now become [redacted] pest in that country, eating the grass which the farmers need for their sheep and cattle. Here, farmers have erected a long fence [redacted] stop the monsters from entering. What are these animals called?

3

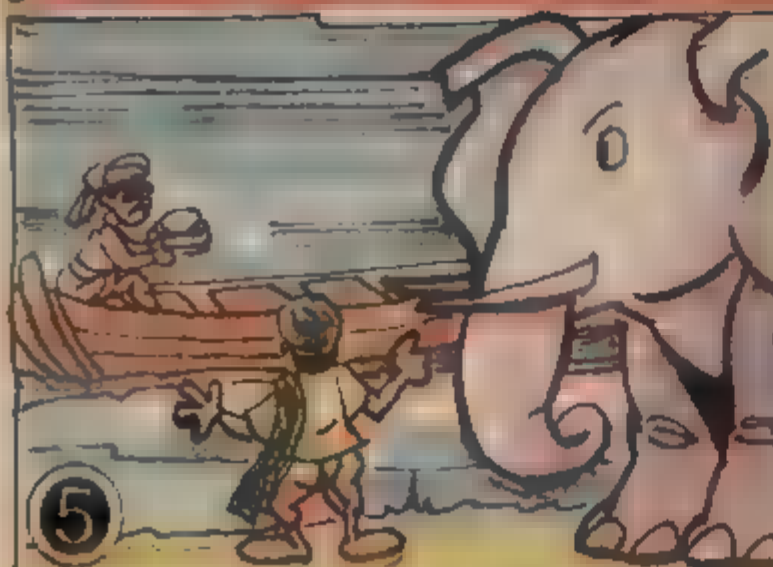
This life-size wooden tiger is displayed in the Victoria and Albert Museum [redacted] London. It is shown mauling a British soldier. When [redacted] handle is turned, the tiger growls and the soldier pathetically raises an arm and groans in agony. Who did this toy tiger belong to?



There are 12 socks in a drawer, six white and six black. The room is dark because of a power failure. How many socks would you have to take out of the drawer to be you had pair of socks, either two white or two black?

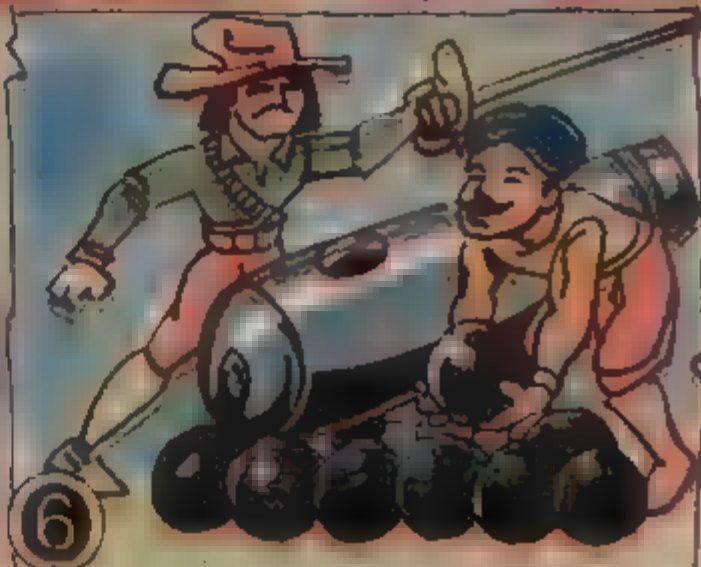


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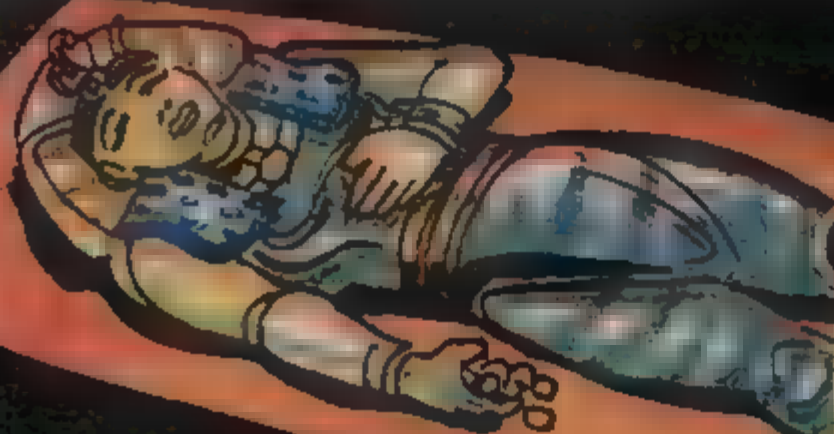
5

As Soman's boat touched land he saw elephant, nearby. belonged to man Soman knew. Soman asked him how much elephant weighed. The he did not know and would give Soman a ride on the elephant if could find out. Soman had only weighing machine which could weigh maximum of kg time. How did weigh the elephant?



6

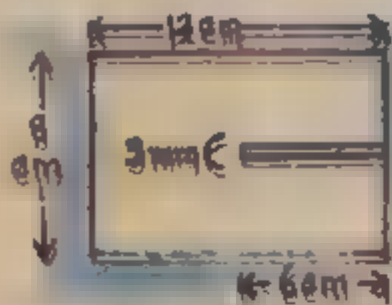
A blacksmith has made eight cannon balls. All the alike and of them equal in weight. Only cannon ball is slightly lighter than the others. If you given balance scale and asked find this cannonball in just two weighings how would you go about it?



7

When people were buried in ancient Egypt, silver and bronze coins were put in their hand. Why?

Send a Snappy Greeting



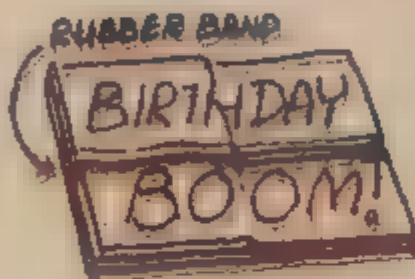
Get a thick card 12 cm x 8 cm and cut a 3 cm wide slot halfway as shown.



Cut another card 6 cm x 8 cm. Tape it at the centre like a hinge.



Fold the top flap away from the slot and put a rubber band around it. It should be neither too tight nor too loose.



Paste two pieces of paper on this, leaving the rubber band and slotted area open. Write a message on the paper.



Prepare a greeting card slightly bigger than your 'snapper' and paste the snapper on the inside.



Now fold the flaps of the snapper on the other end, close the card and put in a cover. Send this to your friends. They will pop in for a booming surprise.



DRAW A VAN

... in three easy steps





**Arrogance can
turn bitter**

Long ago, a king ruled his kingdom according to established conventions and rules. Nothing he did was unjust or unfair to the people.

One day, he went a-hunting. Before he realised it, he had left his entourage far behind. He searched for them, but of no avail. He seemed to have lost his way. He was now feeling dead tired and very much wanted to rest for a while, but there was no place to go, no house nearby where he could get some food and rest.

Fortunately he came upon an ashram. When he went closer, he found a *muni* in deep meditation. "O, most revered sage! I'm afraid I've lost my way, and I've come far away from my companions. I feel hungry and thirsty. May I rest in your ashram for a while?" It was a very humble appeal.

The *muni* did not open his eyes. However, he said, "Oh, sure! Please feel free and stay as long as you like.

The ruler of this kingdom is just, and he does not indulge in anything which will be unfair to his subjects. He has the people's welfare dearest to his heart. So much so, whatever fruits you eat here will be sweet; you'll find even the leaves sweet!"

The king thought it strange, but wherever he turned, he found neem trees in abundance, and no other trees. He plucked a few leaves and some fruits of the neem and ate them to satisfy his hunger. And they tasted sweet in his mouth! He rested till he felt refreshed and then went back to his capital.

He was happy over the remark made by the *muni*, and wanted to prove it to his people that he was really a great ruler. He decided he would throw a party. He asked his cooks to prepare different dishes with the leaves and fruit of neem and similar trees. The cooks looked at each other

bewildered. They did not dare suggest any other dish. After all, it was the king's orders.

The invitees, too, looked at each other, as they began tasting one dish after another. "What's this made of?" they wondered. "I haven't tasted anything more bitter than this!" When some people muffled their comments, some others could not control their voice and their remarks were overheard by the king. He, too, found the dishes either bitter or more bitter. Immediately, he ordered for new dishes and sent back his invitees happy.

What went wrong? wondered the king. When he ate the raw neem leaves and fruit at the ashram, they all had tasted sweet. But the same leaves and fruits tasted bitter in the palace. He could not get a satisfactory answer however much he racked his brain. There was just one way out, and that was to go back to the muni himself.

When the king presented his problem, the muni laughed aloud. "O King! When you came here seeking food and a place to rest, I did not open my eyes and see you and did not know that you are the king. To a person hungry and thirsty, anything would be sweet and tasty. At that time, you fitted well with the description of the king I gave. But when you went back to the palace, you were a different person. You were arrogant and conceited, and wished to proclaim to your people that you're a great ruler. Arrogance will turn anything sweet bitter. Then, why speak of really bitter things like neem leaves!"

The king realised his folly. He bowed low before the wise sage. "You're right, O sage, I was overtaken by your remarks and was really arrogant. I shall change my attitude henceforth. And it's a promise!" The muni blessed the king.





SAGA OF ASHOKA THE GREAT

The story so far: King Vindusar of Magadha is ill when there is a revolt in the far away city of Taxila. While the king's eldest son, Prince Susima, shows reluctance to lead an army against the rebels, the youngest Ashoka volunteers to do so. He crushes the rebellion ruthlessly.

It was evening and Prince Susima, his younger brothers, and their friends, had gathered in a grove on the banks of the river, outside the city of Pataliputra. Their bodyguards had driven out everybody else from the grove so that they could eat, drink, and make merry. They sat on a carpet, leaning against pillows and bolsters, while some girls were singing and

dancing before them.

Some heated arguments outside the grove disturbed their peace. Prince Susima looked back. One of his bodyguards came running to him and said: "My lord, one of our army captains is insisting on coming into the grove. When we told him that today entry to the grove is forbidden by your order, he asked me to inform you that he's

5. A STRANGE RECEPTION FOR THE VICTOR



here by the king's order."

"But what business does he have here?" asked an annoyed Susima.

"He refuses to say that. Maybe, you should ask him, my lord," said the bodyguard.

"Let him come in," said Prince Susima, visibly irritated.

The bodyguard went out, but was back with the captain in a few minutes.

The captain greeted Prince Susima. He asked the bodyguard to return to his station and focused his eyes on the captain. "How dare you disturb us?" Susima shouted.

"Disturbing you is far from my intention, my lord, but we've been

ordered by our General to make arrangements for tomorrow's grand reception. My ■■■ are waiting outside."

"Grand reception? For whom?" asked Susima.

"For Prince Ashoka. He will be accorded ■ reception here, this being the point of entry into the capital."

"A reception for Ashoka? You make me laugh!" hollered Susima.

"It's not my fault, my lord, that Prince Ashoka succeeded in suppressing the rebellion in Taxila in no time!" answered the captain, firmly, though politely.

Not only Susima, but all his companions looked pale. The silence was broken by one of the girls exclaiming: "What fine news!"

"Shut up, you foolish kitten!" shouted Susima.

The girls put their fingers on their lips and giggled. Everybody knew about Susima's envy towards Ashoka.

"How is it that I didn't know about it?" Susima now directed his wrath at the captain.

"My lord, you ought to have known it, but when the news reached the emperor and His Majesty looked for you, nobody could say where you were!" said the captain.

"Will you shut up?" Prince Susima shouted again.

"I will, my lord. I spoke only because you asked me!" answered the captain.

Prince Susima's facial muscles twitched. He seemed to have got a new idea. He took a few steps towards the captain and stood facing him. The captain felt very uncomfortable, but he did not show it. He stood stiff.

Suddenly, Prince Susima took a diamond ring off his finger and put it on the captain's finger. He then laughed while patting the captain on the back. The captain looked surprised, but smiled and bowed to the prince.

"You brought us a piece of good news; hence this reward. Tomorrow, ■ greater reward will await you...."

The prince lowered his voice and uttered "...after Ashoka reaches Pataliputra and yet never reaches Pataliputra! Do you understand me?"

"I'm afraid, I don't understand, my lord," the captain mumbled.

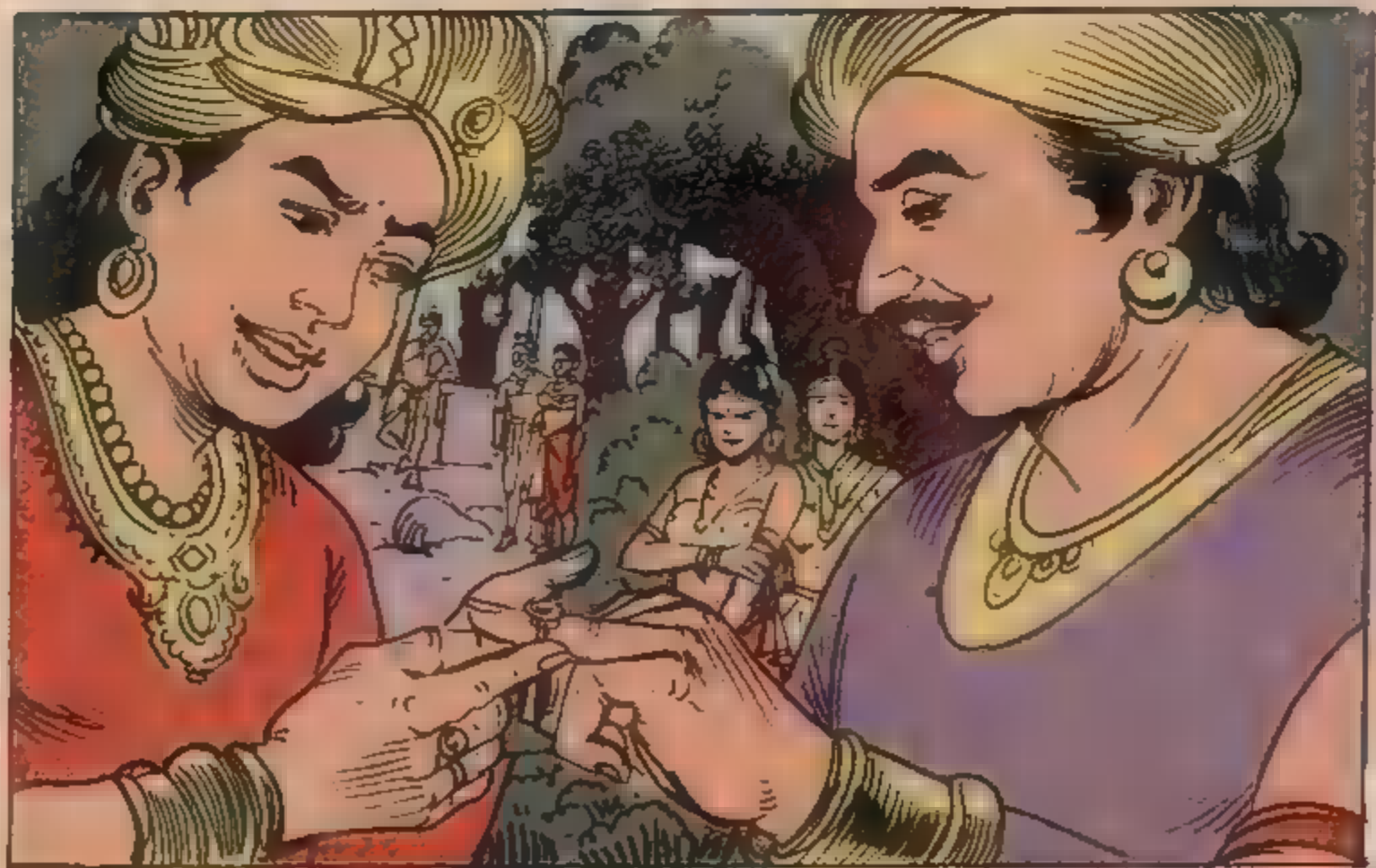
"You'll understand in no time. But first, tell me, who am I?"

"You're the crown prince, my lord!"

"Good. But, can't you say that in a little more imaginative way?"

The captain stood blinking like ■ student being examined by his teacher. Suddenly, his face brightened up. "You're the would-be king, my lord!"

"Excellent! A bright young man like you, who knows that, should also know that his future can be brighter if





he cooperates with the would-be king!" said Susima with a chuckle.

"Order your humble servant, my lord!"

"So, you're in charge of making arrangements for Ashoka's reception. Your arrangements should be so perfect that never again would a reception be necessary for that chap—that son of a palace maid!"

The captain raised his eyebrows at Susima's bitter words, but Susima held him in his arm and led him towards a lonely spot in the grove.

★ ★ ★

Next day, the sun was about to set when King Vindusar's Prime Minister

asked the General: "Why is our noble prince so late?" Prince Susima and his brothers, the ministers, the General, the nobles, and all the top executives of the king had gathered in the grove to receive the victorious prince. They were anxious; he should have arrived before sundown.

Just then a messenger, galloping at great speed, arrived there. Dismounting, he greeted the gathering and, looking at the Prime Minister, said: "Our prince is late because a big crowd had gathered to greet him at Vikshupur. They detained him for an hour. But he has by now left the town behind and should be here any moment."

Susima looked at one of his friends and smiled meaningfully. Nobody outside his circle of confidants knew that the crowd had been mobilised at his behest so that it would be dusk, if not dark, by the time Ashoka approached the grove.

The road leading into the grove had a high embankment on one side, along the river-bank. It had been built to check the water from invading the locality. With the passage of time, some of the huge rocks and boulders with which the embankment was made had become loose.

"Glory to the great Maurya Emperor, Vindusar Amitraghata!"

Along with the sound of the hoofs of horses was heard this enthusiastic cheer at some distance. Prince Ashoka and his soldiers were at last approaching the grove.

At once the crowd of soldiers, officials, and commoners who had gathered behind the nobility in the grove, was given an indication by the General and it burst into a joyous shout: "Glory to our hero, Prince Ashoka!"

Prince Susima and his coterie stood tense. Only they knew what they expected to happen. Now that dusk had fallen, some officials were busy lighting huge torches. The Prime Minister held a garland which the ailing king had sent for Ashoka.

Ashoka's party was seen entering the road under the embankment, leading towards the grove. The waiting crowd was excited.

Suddenly, there were crashing sounds. Nothing could be seen in the

thick dust and dusk for a moment. But loud shrieks and cries could be heard.

"What's this? What happened?" asked Susima. "Is my brother Ashoka safe?"

But none had the time to answer him. Everybody rushed forward. A dozen huge boulders had come rolling from the embankment to the road, killing and maiming several people.

The General and the ministers first sought for Ashoka. "O Prince Ashoka, where are you?" they called out.

After a few minutes they heard Ashoka. He was already on the embankment. "I'm safe, but please do as I say. While some of you should give your attention to rescue those trapped under the stones or carry the wounded into the nearest rest-house, some of you must run to capture those who rolled these boulders down. Their motive is clear. They wished to kill us. But who are they?" (To continue)



Only the affluent can afford!

Reader Pratima Samal, of Thokar, Orissa, wants to know the meaning of the idiom "Born with a silver spoon in one's mouth".

Silver spoon, probably one of the tiniest items that a household will have, denotes wealth, especially inherited wealth, and therefore an aristocratic family. To be born into such a family, having a inherited fortune, assures the person of an easy life. An aristocratic family invariably keeps a tiny silver spoon and a bowl to feed the baby with—something that families in less affluent circumstances cannot afford.

What is the difference between "special" and 'especial'? asks S.R. Gulukota, Manthani, Karimnagar, Andhra Pradesh.

The two words actually mean the same. However, a slight difference is made. The TV, like newspapers, have correspondents and 'special' correspondents who cover particular areas, like parliament, assemblies, ministries, stock exchanges, why, even big sports events like World Cup, Ranji Trophy, Wimbledon, etc. Commenting on their reporting or writings, you say he or she is **especially** good, meaning something or someone who stands out. You visit a restaurant and ask for the menu. The card often states: 'Today's SPECIAL', indicating a special dish served exclusively on that day.

When and where do we use 'ing' in infinitives? asks Aparajita Besan, of Godbhaga, Orissa.

Generally, along with the phrase 'with a view to', the present continuous form of the verb is used. Like: "With a view to securing a rank in the exam, he studied for 20 hours a day" or "With a view to collecting funds for building an auditorium, the school organised a dance recital". It is an idiomatic way of saying. Also, when you use the phrase "looking forward to" in your letter to your friend: "I look forward to meeting you" (and not to meet you).

Where do we use "in time" and "on time"? asks Jagannath Debashis Das, of Baripada, Orissa.

"In time" means early enough. "I reached the school in time for the assembly". "On time" means punctually. "The train arrived on time", meaning it arrived at the scheduled hour and minute. Or shall we say, "The train arrived on the dot"?

THE LAST STEP



In days gone by, there was a wealthy trader. He was a widower and lived with his only son, a spoilt and spendthrift lad. The merchant worked hard all day long, but his boy whiled away his time merry-making with his friends. Never did he lend a helping hand to his ageing parent and continued to waste his hard-earned money.

One morning, the old man called his son and cautioned him: "My dear boy, give up this frivolous life of waste. It is high time you set up your own home. Remember, the friends

you have will all desert you in your hour of need and woe."

But the son only laughed away his father's words. "Ha, ha! My friends are loyal and devoted, and they will always stand by me."

In the course of the next few years, the merchant warned his son several times, trying his level best to make him mend his ways. Alas! His words only fell on deaf ears. The boy continued to revel with his friends and squandered his father's money.

The old man, after all his earnest efforts had gone in vain, finally erected



two pillars in his courtyard. Then, calling his son, he said: "My son, I'm old and weak and may leave this world any moment. So far you haven't cared to pay any heed to my advice. The money I leave behind will last but for a short time. When it is all over and you are hungry, don't go about begging. Here stand two posts. Tie a rope across them, climb up and just hang yourself."

"Ha, ha! Dear father, you're not only old but out of your mind, too! You're speaking nonsense," laughed the insensitive young man.

■ was not before long the old merchant died and, within a short

time, the son spent all his money. Helpless, he approached his so-called dutiful and devoted friends.

"I've no money left with me now and will be unable to entertain you any longer," he said with tearful eyes. "Now, you friends must help me."

"You may, if you ■ like, work for ■ and earn your living," they said, trying to avoid him.

So, the merchant's son worked for his friends and he worked hard indeed. But all he got in return were only some left over food and rude abuses. He left them and sadly wended his weary way homewards.

'So undependable are man's mind and heart! How right my father was in his advice!' he said to himself and sighed.

Soon he reached his house and his eyes fell on the two posts standing in the courtyard. Despair drove him to ponder over his father's parting advice. So, he fixed ■ rope across the posts and pulled it hard to test whether it was strong enough to take his weight. Lo and behold! the two hollow pillars came crashing down scattering all over the place coins of gold and silver, precious stones, and diamonds.

'How blind, deaf and insensitive I was !' he cried in repentance, and a great change came over him.

In gratitude towards his wise and thoughtful father, the young man decided to mend his ways. He revived his father's business. Traders in other cities, who once held his father in esteem, helped him. Soon he began to prosper.

He now took a wife and built a happy cosy home and was blessed with a host of frolicsome little children.

One day, his so-called friends came knocking on his door.

The young man answered the door and asked them courteously, "Gentlemen, whom do you want to see, please?"

"Oh! Don't you recognise us? We're your friends and we've spent so much time revelling together! Don't you

remember?" they asked, rather surprised.

"Is that so? But were you *my* friends or friends of my *wealth*? For, when I had money, you treated me like a lord and when I had none, you shunned me like a dog! Is wealth the only yardstick to measure a man's importance?" he asked with a smile.

The visitors fell silent. They were ashamed of themselves and asked forgiveness for their selfish folly.

The merchant's son pardoned them. Choked with tears, he recounted how his wise father, even in his death, cared for him and succeeded in making him mend his ways.

His friends, too, felt inspired and from then on changed their lifestyle.

-Retold by Anup Kishore Das



NEWS FLASH

ODDEST LAUGH

The people of Texas, U.S.A., are a happy-go-lucky lot. At the drop of a hat, they resort to laughter. If they ■ not laughing, then they would at least be smiling. "Ripley's Believe It or Not", like the *Guinness Book of Records*, collects anecdotes and strange events, some of which are really unbelievable. Ripley's is now holding a contest for laughter, exclusively for Texans. Who will produce the oddest of all laughs? The prize is 350 dollars (nearly Rs.15,000). The contestant has only to ring up Ripley's "laugh lines" and start laughing, which will be automatically taped and recorded. Sure, the oddest laughter will all turn ■

merry laughter when the results are announced.

DOG GOES TO COURT

Devil Marsh is the 3-year-old black poodle kept by Harold Marsh, ■ lawyer in Los Angeles, U.S.A. The cute little dog used to accompany its master whenever he visited ■ restaurant there. One day, an employee turned the dog away, because the local Health authorities had taken objection to the dog's presence in the hotel. Lawyer Marsh has now filed a petition on behalf of Devil Marsh, which states that dogs have been "living with, eating with, and sleeping with" human beings for more than 10,000 years and that there is no evidence that "a dog has ever transmitted a disease to a human being, except rabies when a man is bitten by a mad dog."

A CALENDAR RECORD

Three unique books have together nearly 2,500 pages. The paper used for these three books is valued Rs.5,000. And mind you, there is ONLY ONE COPY of the three books available. Surely, you will want to know what the books contain? Hold your breath. They have the calendars from year A.D. 1 to A.D. 10,000! Would you like to know on what day June 1, 9999 comes? You can look up the third volume of this mammoth calendar for the answer. It was prepared by ■ young man called Kumar, a resident of West Mambalam, in Madras. And he took only 48 days to write down ■ the 10,000 calendars. And he did it in the presence of the District Collector or representatives of a Rotary Club, Lions Club, or Junior Chamber. On the strength of their certificate, Kumar and his 3-volume calendar have received ■ entry in the *Guinness Book of Records*.





STORIES FROM MAHABHARATA

The story so far:

The conditions that went with the exile of the Pandava princes were hard. They must pass twelve years in the forest and one more year in hiding. If they were discovered during this last year, they must go into exile for another twelve years.

The period of twelve years in exile was now drawing to a close. The Pandava princes, with Draupadi, had travelled through the Gandhamadana mountains; then they returned to the Kamyaka forest for a while, and afterwards decided to spend the remaining year in the Dwaita forest.

As usual, many sages visited the princes. One of them returning to Hastinapura, sought audience with the blind King Dhritarashtra. The sage told the king that the Pandava princes had undergone many hardships and privations during their exile. Dhritarashtra expressed his regrets and concern; inwardly also he was sorely troubled. He could foresee that the envy and greed of his son, Duryodhana, would eventually lead to a violent conflict with the justly wrathful Pandavas, which would mean the ignoble end of the proud Kuru race.

Unknown to Dhritarashtra, the evil-minded Sakuni and Karna overheard the sage telling the king of the sufferings the Pandavas had to endure. The news filled them with joy and they lost no time in hurrying to Duryodhana so that he, too, could share the knowledge of the great suffering the Pandavas were going through.

Duryodhana gloated over the mis-

fortune of the Pandavas, but the evil genius Sakuni, who hated the Pandavas, decided that now was the time to rub salt on their wounds.

"Let's go and look at the distress of the Pandavas. Their kingdom has become ours. We should go to the Dwaita forest and show that miserable group a glimpse of our great state and prosperity," proposed Sakuni.

"It would be my greatest satisfaction to see the sufferings of the Pandavas with my own eyes," responded Duryodhana. "But the king may not allow me to go. He would not like his nephews to feel humiliated."

But Karna already had a bright idea to overcome any difficulty caused by King Dhritarashtra. "Send for the cowherd boys and bribe them to tell the king that wild animals are inflicting terrible losses on our cattle in the forest. The king will be only too pleased to let us go and kill the wild animals."

Duryodhana and Sakuni applauded the idea and lost no time in sending for the cowherd boys. Their spokes-

men met the king and gave the false report, as instructed.

When Dhritarashtra was told by Duryodhana that he and his brothers could annihilate the animals, he shook his head.

"The wild animals should certainly be killed or driven away, but I cannot agree that any of you should go. The Pandavas are residing in the forest and the sight of you will only add to their anger."

Duryodhana was annoyed. "Must we give up hunting because of the presence of the Pandavas in the forest? We shall certainly not go anywhere near them!" he said.

Sakuni also put in his words of



flattery and, as usual, the weak-minded king gave in and in a doleful voice said: "Go, if you must, but avoid meeting your cousins by all means."

The Kauravas set out the next day with ■ army and some followers. Duryodhana and Karna made no attempt to conceal their joy at the thought of being able to gloat over the Pandava princes to the latter's despair. They took care to have their luxurious tents raised within easy distance of the spot where the Pandavas were living.

At the end of a day's hunting spree, Duryodhana and his followers came to an attractive lake close to the hermitage of the Pandavas. Duryodhana, charmed by the spot, gave orders for

his camp to be pitched there.

But Chitrasena, the king of the Gandharvas, was already camping in the neighbourhood, and he indignantly refused to allow Duryodhana's men to put up their tents. When Duryodhana came to hear of this, his temper flared up and at the head of his army, he marched to the lake intent on teaching the Gandharvas a lesson for daring to oppose his orders.

A battle ensued between the Kauravas and the Gandharvas. At first, it looked as though the Kauravas would emerge victorious, but Chitrasena rallied his troops and using his magic weapons, caused havoc in the ranks of Duryodhana's army.



Karna and the other Kaurava princes had to flee the battlefield. Duryodhana stayed and tried to reassemble his troops, but Chitrasena soon took him prisoner, and placed him in his chariot, his hands and feet tied.

The members of the Kaurava army fled in all directions and some of them took refuge in the hermitage of the Pandavas.

When Yudhishtira and his brothers were told of the battle and the capture of Duryodhana, Bhima was delighted and turning to Yudhishtira, said: "The Gandharvas have done what we should have done, and Duryodhana richly deserved this fate."

But Yudhishtira rebuked Bhima. "Brother, the Kauravas are our kith and kin, and we cannot stand aside idly when they're attacked by strangers. We must do our utmost to rescue them."

So, Yudhishtira and his brothers rallied the routed army. When they

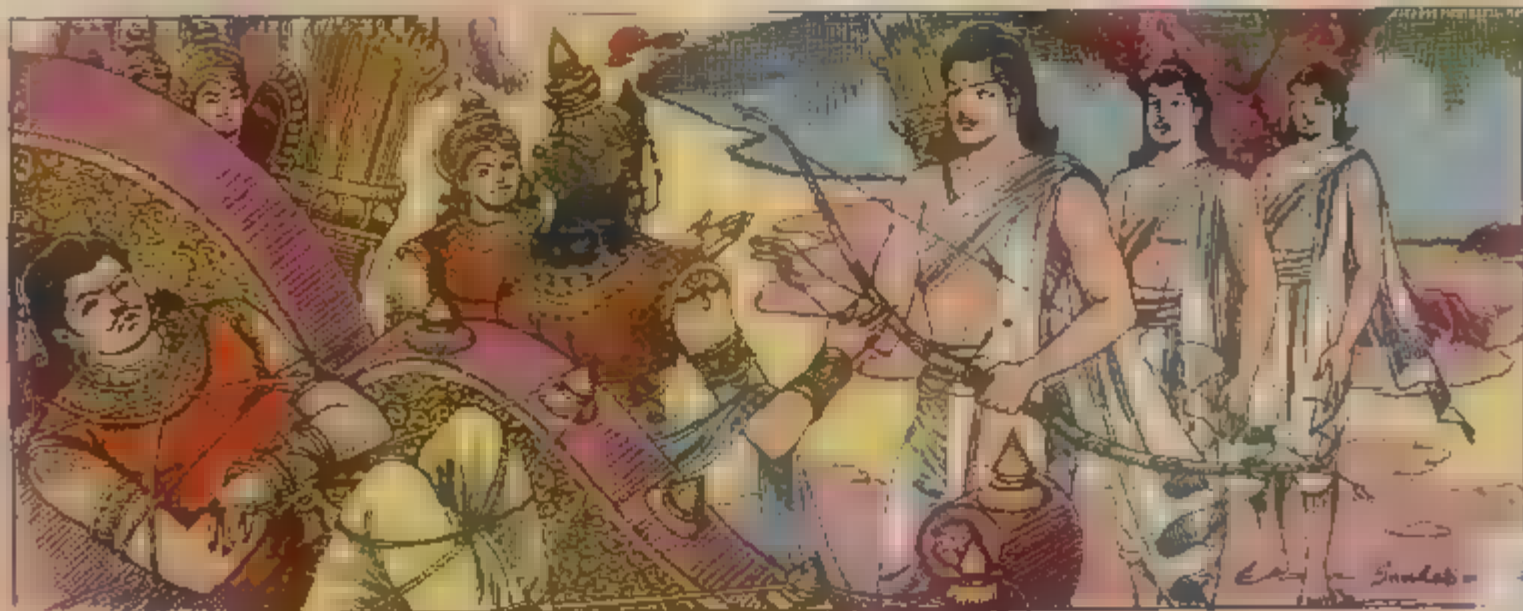
offered to fight the Gandharvas, Chitrasena said he had no wish to fight the Pandavas and would willingly release Duryodhana and the other prisoners as he only wanted to teach the arrogant Kauravas a fitting lesson.

Duryodhana, shamed and dejected by being so badly beaten in battle, refused to be consoled by Yudhishtira's kind words, and rode back to Hastinapura, embittered and angry at being rescued by his foes.

Sakuni, riding by his side, tried to soothe him. "Why do you fret and fume over these Pandavas? You possess their kingdom and all their riches. What more do you want?"

In a voice cracking with anger, Duryodhana said: "I'll never be able to raise my head high unless I've vanquished the Pandavas! What a humiliation we suffered!"

(To continue)



Coastal Journeys - 9

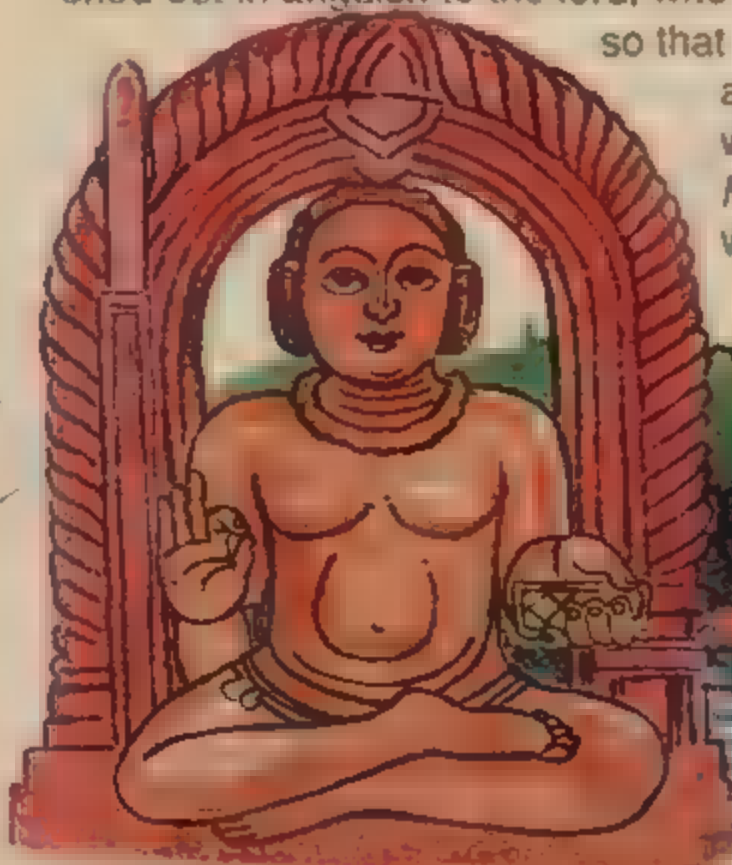
Text : Meera Nair ♦ Artist : Goutam Sen

At the mouth of the Malpe or Udyavara river, on the palm-fringed Dakshina Kannada coast, lies the port of Malpe. It is the largest fish-curing port in the country.

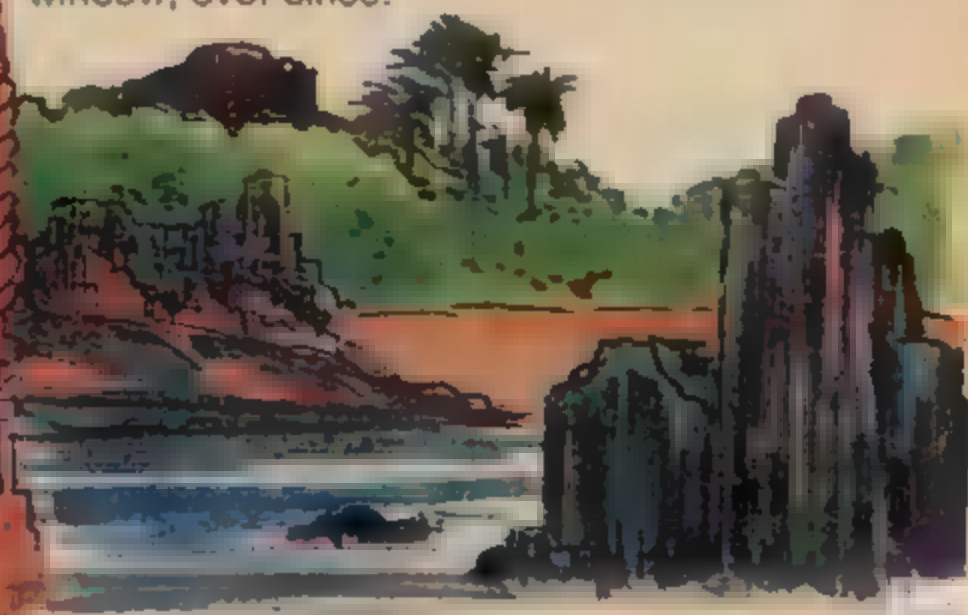
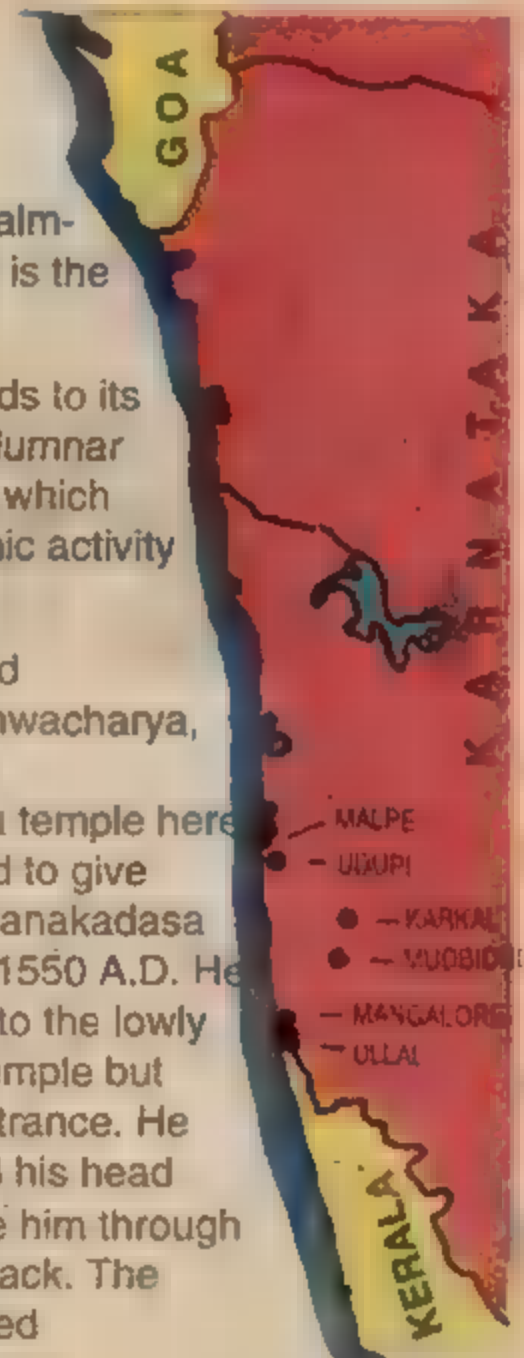
Malpe has a picturesque beach and three rocky islands to its west. One of them, called the Coconut Island, has the Columnar Lava, which is a national geological monument. The rocks which make up these columns were formed as a result of volcanic activity some 60 million years ago.

Four kilometres to the south of Malpe is Udupi, the old Rajatapithapura. It is a famous centre of pilgrimage. Madhwacharya, the great Dwaita philosopher and saint, established eight mutts(monasteries) here 700 years back. There is a temple here with an idol of Krishna which is said to have turned around to give 'darshana' to a low-caste devotee named Kanakadasa. Kanakadasa was a Vaishnava saint and a poet, who was born around 1550 A.D. He was a great devotee of Lord Krishna, but as he belonged to the lowly Kuruba caste, he was not only barred from entering the temple but also wasn't allowed to stand outside the temple's main entrance. He cried out in anguish to the lord, who is said to have turned his head

so that his devotee could see him through a window at the back. The window has been called *Kanakana Kindi*, Kanaka's window, ever since.



A statue of Sri Madhwacharya



The Columnar Lava of Coconut Island



Krishna Temple, Udupi

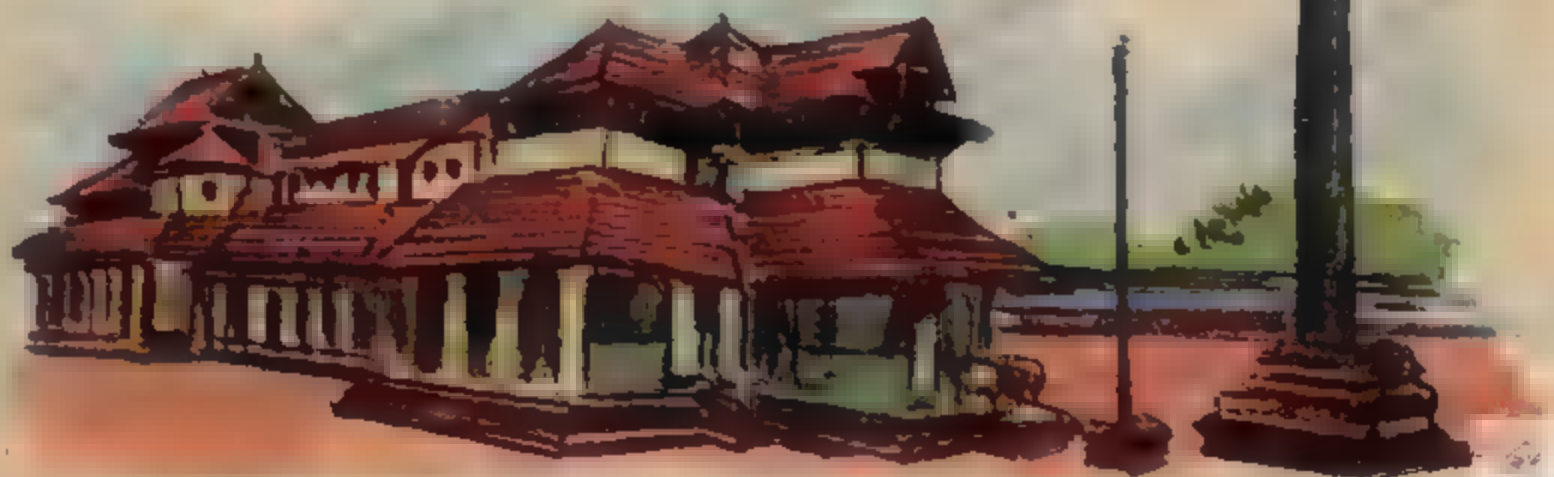
Lakhs of devotees visit this temple, especially during the 'Paryayotsava', ■ colourful festival held once in two years.

Udupi is also an important educational and banking centre.

Udyavara, four kilometres south-west of Udupi, is the birthplace of Madhwacharya. A statue of the saint stands at the spot where he ■ born.

South of Udupi lie two strongholds of Jainism — Karkala and Mudbidri. Karkala is famous for its 12.8 - metre - high Gomata statue, installed in 1432 A.D. It is also the hometown of Karnataka's famous sculptor, the late Renjal Gopal Shenoy, the creator of gigantic idols which have been installed, not only in Karnataka and other parts of the country, but also in Japan.


Basadi of a Thousand Pillars, Mudbidri



A full-length illustration of a female figure, likely a Hindu goddess, standing and holding a lotus flower. She is adorned with jewelry and a crown. The background is a simple landscape with a blue sky and green ground.

Mangalore, named after the 10th century queen Mangaladevi, lies to the south of Mudbidri. It ■■■■ ■■ flourishing port as far back as the 2nd century A.D. Sericulture, introduced by Tipu Sultan, made Mangalore a leading silk producer in India.

Mangalore lies ■ the confluence
of two rivers, Netravati and
Gurpur.

A large cargo ship with a dark hull and a white superstructure is sailing on the water. The ship has a prominent mast with rigging. In the background, there are hills and a smaller boat on the water. The sky is a mix of blue and white.

Mangalore lies at the confluence of two rivers, Netravati and Gurpur.

Mangalore is a major centre of higher education in Karnataka. Besides being a commercial and industrial centre, Mangalore is the only major port of Karnataka.

The 760-km-long Konkan Railway, a coastal line now under construction, will join Mangalore with Mumbai. The 41-hour journey from Mangalore to Mumbai will be reduced to 18 hours once this project is completed.

At the southernmost end of the Dakshina Kannada coast, just a few kilometres south of Mangalore, lies Ullal, famous for its silvery beaches. In the latter half of the 17th century, Ullal was ruled by the fiery queen, Abbakkadevi. When Abbakka became queen, she stopped paying the annual tax to the Portuguese, who were a major power in the region at that time.

Then, defying a ban on trading with other countries, she sent a fleet of ships to trade with the Arab countries. The Portuguese mounted an attack on Ullal, but urged on by their queen, the soldiers of Ullal fought fiercely and drove the Europeans away.

Rani Abbakkadevi of Ullal won a great victory over the Portuguese.





New Tales of King Vikram and the Vampire

The Big Prize

Dark was the night and weird the atmosphere. It rained from time to time; gusts of wind shook the trees. Between thunderclaps and the moaning of jackals could be heard the eerie laughter of spirits. Flashes of lightning revealed fearsome faces.

But King Vikramaditya did not swerve a bit. He climbed the ancient tree once again and brought down the corpse. However, as soon as he began crossing the desolate cremation ground, with the corpse lying on his shoulder, the vampire that possessed the corpse spoke: "O King! You seem to be making untiring efforts and without respite, as if you wish to achieve something. I pity you. Instead of enjoying comfortable sleep on a cozy bed, you're still coming after me. Tell me, are you expecting a reward in return? Or are you evading a reward—like Vilakshana? You must hear his story." And the vampire began his narration.

Long, long ago, Mantrapuri was being ruled by King Mandahasa. His



daughter was Malini. Being an only child, the princess was brought up like a boy, and given training in the use of arms and warfare. It was certain that whoever wed her would also become the ruler of Mantrapuri. The princes of many of the neighbouring kingdoms cherished a desire to marry Malini who was, besides everything else, extremely beautiful.

Whenever the king broached the subject of marriage, Princess Malini would hesitate to give an answer. "No, Malini, you must give me a definite answer," Mandahasa one day told her. "Yes or no?"

"Yes, father, but..." replied Malini.

The king stared at her, waiting for her to complete the sentence.

"Whoever marries me must be strong and brave. And he must succeed in the tests that I give." Malini then spelt out what kind of tests she was contemplating for her suitors.

The king was horrified. "Don't insist on any such test," he advised the princess. "They're all hazardous. No one will come forward to undergo the tests for fear for their life. Just forget about them."

"Don't worry, father," Malini assured Mandahasa. "All those who profess that they love me more than their life will certainly take these tests. You just watch!"

The king consulted his ministers. They came out with a suggestion. "If the princess is determined to impose the tests, let her wish be carried out," said the Prime Minister. "But when we make the announcement, let us not spell out the details. They will be let known only at the time of the test."

Mandahasa agreed to the suggestion. The royal announcement about the princess's wedding merely stated that the suitors would have to take certain tests. The announcement was made in all the neighbouring kingdoms, including Simhapuri, where a

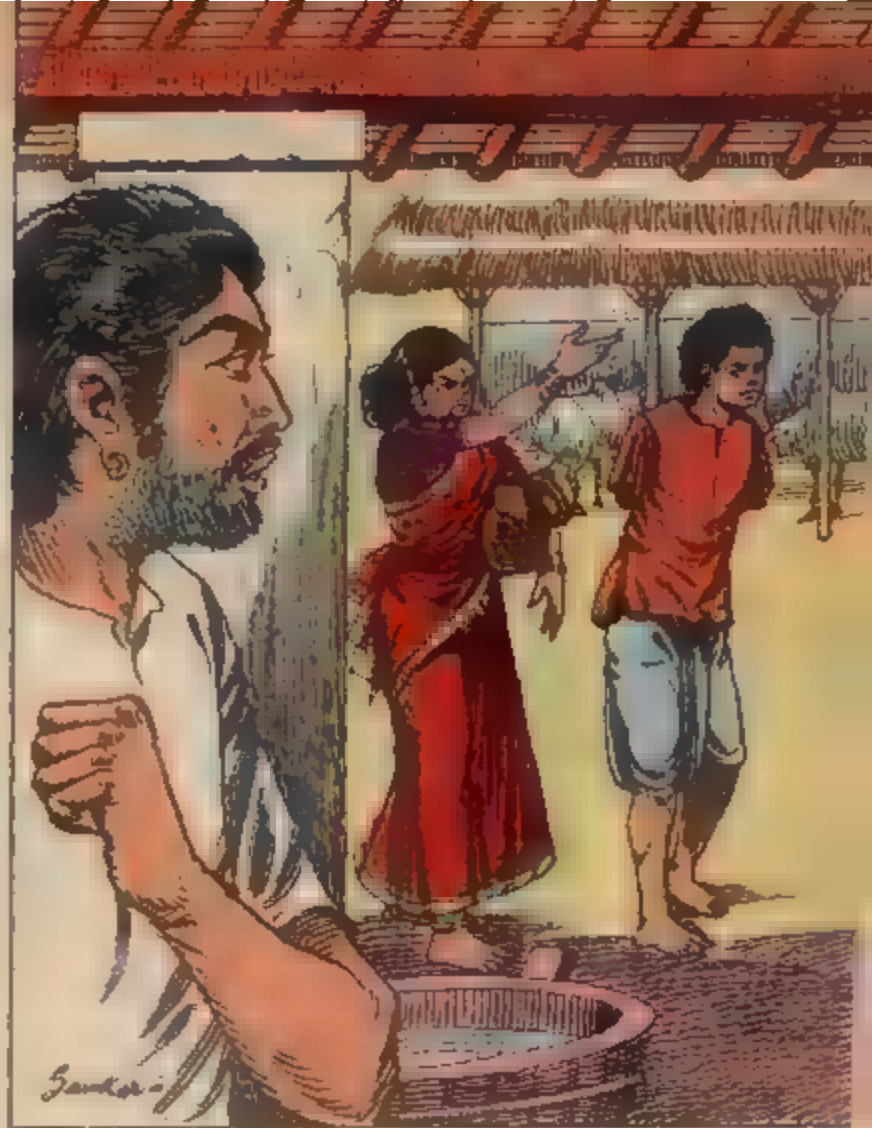
young man named Vilakshana, too, heard it.

He had been born with both hands stunted. His mother died soon after he was born, and his father took a second wife. The boy was named Vilakshana, the ugly looking. His stepmother was not at all kind-hearted, and she ill-treated him much. It was seldom that he even got a full meal. She knew that the boy, with his handicap, would not be of much use to her.

Vilakshana did not utter a word in protest or by way of complaint. But he lamented within himself. 'Mother is always scolding me! She's harassing me under one pretext or other. Won't there be an end to all this? They feel that I'm no good and I had better die! I must take this as a challenge and show them that I, too, can face life.' He silently cherished such a hope.

When he heard the public announcement of Princess Malini's marriage, he wondered which suitor would be willing to go through any test, and who would ultimately win her hand. He decided to go to Mantrapuri to watch the *tamasha*.

Quite a few princes had by then assembled at Mantrapuri. There were some young men, too, wishing to try their luck, if the princes were to fail. They all spent their time guessing



what kind of tests the princess would put them through. Some of them thought it could be wrestling. Some others thought it could be their performance with the bow and arrow. Or would it be a sword-fight? wondered some others.

The time came to announce the details of the tests. The arrival of King Mandahasa was announced by the royal buglers. Next to the king sat Princess Malini, and on the other side of the king sat the Prime Minister. He got up from his seat and faced the princely suitors. "The contest is about to start! Several suitors are present here to win the hand of Princess



Malini. It is her wish that they are put to certain tests. Whoever succeeds in the test will qualify to wed her. You all can see the wall in front of you. You have to climb the wall and jump down into the three-tiered cage of sharp knives. The test is, while doing so, you must be careful not to injure yourself. There should not be a single scratch on your body from the blades of the knives. Whoever is willing to participate in the test may step forward!"

Many princes rose from their seats, and went and took a good look at the high wall as well as the cage of knives. One by one they went back to their

seats. The wall looked too high for them; the cage was placed deep down below; and the space between the knives was very small. They would not be able to jump down without injuring themselves. Why, they might even die of the injuries sustained from the sharp knives. None dared even to make an attempt.

As they went back to their seats, some of them protested. "What kind of test is this? It could have been a sword-fight or wrestling or archery, or any other of that kind. But not this! It is almost a trap from where one can't escape with one's life. Why should anyone sacrifice his life for the hand of ■ mad princess in the world!"

It looked as though no suitor was willing to take the test. The king was in a dilemma. He regretted that his daughter did not accept his advice and desist from insisting on tests.

Vilakshana was watching all this from his seat. Suddenly ■ thought struck him. After all, people back home, like his stepmother, were only wishing for his death. If he were to succeed in the test by the grace of god, he stood to win the hand of none else than a princess! So, why should he not try his luck? And if he were to die, nobody would grieve over his fate.

He left his seat and walked up to King Mandahasa. "Your Majesty, can I have your permission to take the test?"

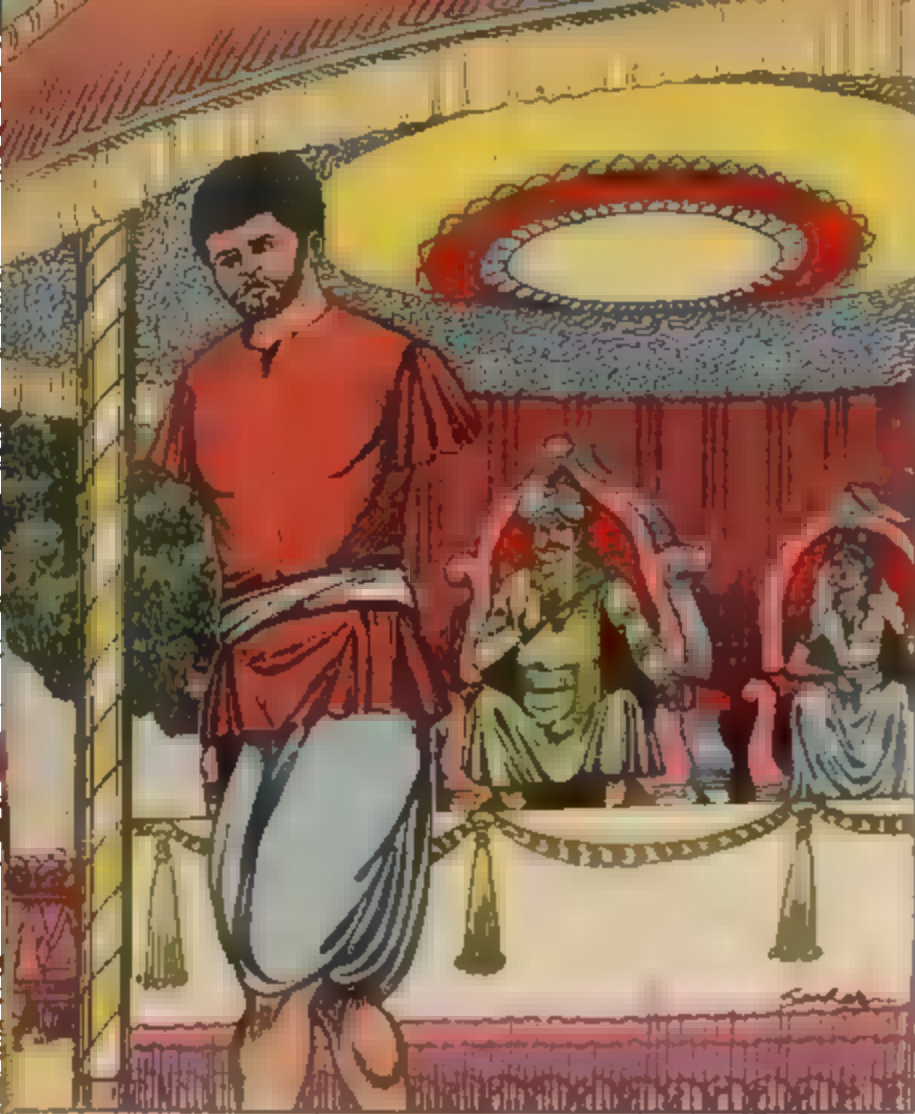
The king was shocked. Who was this ugly-looking handicapped youth? Suppose he were to succeed in the test? His daughter would have to marry him—according to the rules of the game. And if that happened, she would have to spend the rest of her life in the company of a handicapped husband!

Princess Malini, too, was in a similar dilemma. She was expecting to be married off to a prince, brave, daring and handsome. But look at this ugly youth! Would it be her fate

to become *his* wife? She regretted she ever thought of tests for her suitors. She was almost reconciled to the prospect of a handicapped husband, when suddenly a doubt arose in her mind: would this young man be able to climb that high wall? How would he avoid a scratch while jumping into the cage when he had no hands to guide him through the sharp knives? She almost concluded that he would only meet with his end if he were to be foolish enough to attempt jumping down from the wall. She avoided looking at him and her father.

King Mandahasa waited for a moment to know his daughter's reaction, and then gave the permission





to Vilakshana.

One of the princes angrily got up from his seat. "Do you dare undergoing this senseless test? You, without both hands?"

Unmindful of the snide remarks from the princes, and the pitiful looks of the others, he went up to the wall and asked the soldiers to take him to the top of the wall. He then took a good look at the cage and jumped down. He landed between the knives arrayed all around on all the three tiers. He was unscathed! A loud cheer arose from the audience.

The cage was slowly raised, ■ allow the young man to come out. He

then walked towards the king and the princess. Their face had gone a milky white.

Vilakshana realised their predicament. "O King! Please don't worry. I don't wish to marry the princess. I had only wanted to take a challenge and I know I've succeeded. That itself is ■ big prize for me and I can now face life." He bowed low before the king and retreated.

The vampire ended his narration there and turned to King Vikramaditya. "O King! Didn't Vilakshana behave like a lunatic? If he had no intention of marrying the princess, why did he at all decide to undergo the test? And after having succeeded in the test and qualified to wed the princess, why did he back out and declare that he did not want to marry her? What was the big prize he was referring to when he said he didn't want to aspire for anything more? If you know the answers and still decide not to satisfy me, beware, your head will be blown to pieces!"

"True, Vilakshana was a handicapped young man," said the king. "He was fully aware of his handicap. He also knew that it was his handicap that bothered his stepmother. He really wished that she changed her opinion about him. She



should not any longer feel that he was no good. Instead, she should know that where people with no handicap had failed, he could, despite his handicap, come out a victor. That, for him, was the biggest prize he could aspire for. He decided to undergo the hazardous test not with the hope of marrying ■ princess. If he married her, he would one day be called upon to rule the kingdom. But as a ruler, he wouldn't be able even to hold a sword.

If that was the case, it wouldn't be proper for him to marry her. That was why he gave up his claim to her hand. It was not any act of a lunatic. On the contrary, it was the decision of an intelligent, wise person."

The vampire knew that he had been outsmarted once again. He flew back to the ancient tree, carrying the corpse with him. Vikramaditya drew his sword and went after the vampire.

■ There lives more faith in honest doubt

● Virtue lies in the ■■■■■

■ Eat at your pleasure and speak in measure

■ Never is a long day

● Apology is only egotism wrong side out

Favourite of elephants

The Latin name for Wood Apple is *Ferronea elephantum*. The word 'elephantum' refers to the interesting habit of elephants who are fond of this fruit and eat it in a peculiar way. They put the whole fruit into their mouth, but eat only the sweet pulp inside and cleverly discard the woody shell! This fruit is also common offering to the elephant-headed god, Lord Ganesha. The 'wood' denotes the woody nature of the exterior cover of the fruit, while the soft edible pulp inside is sweet, like apple. The pulp, which has a cooling effect, is used for making *sherbet* or a cool drink, especially in summer. And while making the drink, more often jaggery is added, instead of sugar. A popular confectionery is also made from the wood apple pulp, with honey and sugar candy. It makes a good home-made lozenge.

The name in Sanskrit is *Kapittha*; in Hindi it is *Kavitaha* or *Kavat*; in Gujarati, *Kotha*; in Marathi, *Kavath*; in Bengali, *Kathbel*; in Kannada, *Bela*; and in Tamil, *Vilapalam*.

The tree grows wild in forests

and is often grown in home gardens. It is a moderately sized tree, with strong, straight spines. There are a number of leaflets on either side of the central axis which terminates in yet another leaflet. The flowers, dull red in colour, are small in size and appear clustered. The fruit is spherical, and is about two-and-a-half inches in diameter, with the shell grey and rough.



Sages of India

KASYAPA AND ASTIKA

Long long ago, the earth was infested with such a large number of serpents that the very existence of mankind was in peril. Man had to depend on fields for their crops, but the fields were crowded with serpents. Man had to go to the river for water, but there were numerous serpents in the rivers and lakes, too. In the forests, the serpents proved a greater danger to man than the wild animals.

A great sage, Kasyapa Prajapati, was very much concerned about it. He meditated for long and, out of his divine inspirations, composed some hymns which, when recited, would ward off snakes and also cure snake-bite. What was more, he created a deity who would control the serpents. As the deity was born of his mind or *Manas*, she was known as Manasa Devi.

Manasa Devi married another great sage, Jaratkaru. They had a son who, right from his infant days, became an ardent devotee of Lord Vishnu. His name was Astika.

Once, King Parikshit, out for hunting, playfully put a dead snake around the neck of Rishi Samika. Samika's son cursed the king, saying he would be bitten to death by a serpent within seven days. The king, of course, took all possible precautions to ensure that no snake could come anywhere near him. But a little before sunset, on the seventh day, when he was about to eat a fruit, a tiny worm hiding in it suddenly assumed the form of a great serpent and bit the king to death.

This serpent was Takshaka, the chief of a tribe of serpents.

The king's son, Janamejaya, resolved to destroy all the serpents in the world. Accordingly, he organised a special Yajna. The Rishis, who performed it, recited such powerful hymns that thousands of serpents were drawn into the flames of the Yajna and were reduced to ashes.

Takshaka, however, took shelter under the throne of Indra, the king of gods. Alas! He had no escape even then. The hymns began to draw the throne itself along with Indra and Takshaka clinging to it.

It was at this time that Astika met Prince Janamejaya and appealed to him to put an end to the Yajna. Astika himself was a sage whose consciousness was steeped in peace and compassion. The prince was impressed and influenced by him. He stopped the Yajna. Takshaka and the rest of the serpents were spared.

It is believed that a traveller remembers Astika with devotion, he would be safe from snakes, for no snake would harm who loved their saviour.



DO YOU KNOW?

1. Where is Devil's Island?
2. What is the total route length of India's railways?
3. Recently, Assembly elections were held in Kerala. What is its strength?
4. One State in India has adopted English as its official language. Which State?
5. The well-known ornithologist, Salim Ali, had associated a bird with his autobiography. Which bird?
6. Students of mathematics are familiar with the Logarithm. Who formulated the table?
7. Who established the first studio in India to produce animation films? Where is it located? What was the name of the first movie made in that studio?
8. An Indian leader was invited to address the United Nations in Malayalam—for the first ever time—during its 50th anniversary celebrations last year. Who?
9. Which is the country to join the United Nations last?
10. Only one Indian has ever given a music concert at the United Nations. Who?
11. What are the official languages of the United Nations?
12. Which are the two cities connected by India's National Highway No. 1?
13. Who is the Director-General of the World Trade Organisation?
14. Pakistan has the dubious distinction of scoring the lowest total in World Cup Cricket. What was the score? Who were they playing against?
15. Who will host the next World Cup?

ANSWERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. North east of South America is French Guyana, and one of the islands lying next to it is called Devil's Island, where convicts from the mainland were once taken. | 6. John Napier |
| 2. 62,000 km | 5. Sparrow. The title of the book is "Fall of a Sparrow". |
| 3. 140 seats | 4. Nagaland |
| 4. 140 seats | 3. 140 seats |
| 5. Sparrow. The title of the book is "Fall of a Sparrow". | 2. 62,000 km |
| 6. John Napier | 1. North east of South America is French Guyana, and one of the islands lying next to it is called Devil's Island, where convicts from the mainland were once taken. |
| 7. Dr. Akneni Nageswara Rao, who won the Dada Saheb Phadke Award, Hyderabad. Heart Entertainment. | 8. The religious leader Mata Amritanandamayi. |
| 8. The Republic of Palau | 9. The Republic of Palau |
| 9. M.S. Subbulakshmi | 10. M.S. Subbulakshmi |
| 10. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish. | 11. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish. |
| 11. Delhi and Chandigarh | 12. Delhi and Chandigarh |
| 12. Rino Ruggiero | 13. Rino Ruggiero |
| 13. 74 runs in 40.2 overs. Against England in 1992. | 14. 74 runs in 40.2 overs. Against England in 1992. |
| 14. 74 runs in 40.2 overs. Against England in 1992. | 15. England |

Going by Precedent

Ramthirth was a rich man of Rayadurg. He kept a retinue of servants; Nanjappa was one of them. His main work was to dust the several rooms in the huge mansion and keep everything in its place neat and tidy. One day, he picked up a silver coin from the floor. He ran to his master and, handing it to him, he told Ramthirth where he had found it lying on the floor. He was very happy over the honesty of Nanjappa. "Good! I appreciate your honesty. You may keep the coin for yourself," said Ramthirth.

After a few days, a diamond necklace was missing in the house. A thorough search was made, but it was nowhere to be found. Ramthirth called each servant and questioned them. No, none of them had seen it or taken it. At last he called Nanjappa. "Did you say diamond necklace?" he coolly queried.

"Well, I did find a necklace two days ago."

"Then, why didn't you tell me?" Ramthirth asked of him, without getting angry with him.

"That day, when I picked up a silver coin and brought it to you, you asked me to keep it," Nanjappa replied. "I thought if I were to tell you about the necklace, you would once again ask me to keep it."

Ramthirth was flabbergasted.



IMMORTAL
FRIENDSHIP - 2

SUMITRA ENTERS
A LANE. SINGHI
DORA AND HIS MEN
FOLLOW HIM.

NOW IS THE CHANCE TO ROB
HIM! YOU [REDACTED] FROM THAT SIDE
I SHALL GO [REDACTED] HERE.

THE ROBBERS
SURROUND
SUMITRA.

DROP THE BOXES
AND RUN AWAY!



SUMITRA LEAVES
THE BOXES AND
[REDACTED] HIS SWORD.

YOU FOOLS! COME
AND HAVE A TASTE OF
MY SWORD.

MEANWHILE...

LOOK! THE
ROYAL GUARDS

WE MUST
NOT BE SEEN!



SINGHI DORA
RUNS AWAY WITH
THE BOXES.



WHAT'S HAPPENING
THERE? LET'S GO [REDACTED]
FIND OUT



LET THE BOXES GO, BUT I
SHOULDN'T BE SEEN BY THE
GUARDS.



SUMITRA
RUNS AWAY



AH! IF I CAN
GET INTO THAT
STREET...

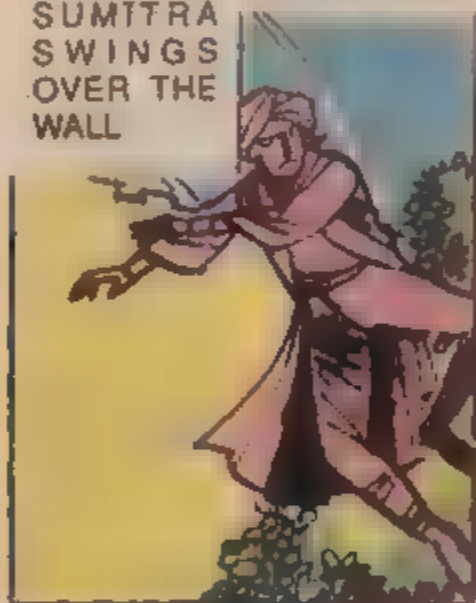
...AND CATCH
HOLD OF THAT
CREEPER...



... I'LL BE ABLE TO JUMP
OVER THE WALL!



WITH LIGHTNING SPEED,
SUMITRA
SWINGS
OVER THE
WALL



MEANWHILE...

WHERE'S
HE? HAS HE ESCAPED?



AFTER
SOME
TIME...

THANK GOD! I'M
SAVED! LET ME NOW
REMOVE MY GUISE!



AS SUMITRA
IS ABOUT TO
LEAVE, HE NO-
TICES SOME
MOVEMENT
AMONG THE
BUSH.



WHO'S HIDING
THERE? COME OUT!
OR MY SWORD WILL...

SINGHI
DORA
EMERGES
FROM
THE
BUSH.



HA! IT'S YOU! SO, WE MEET
AGAIN. WHY WERE YOU HIDING?

SINGHI
DORA ■ NOT
ABLE TO ES-
CAPE



DON'T KILL ME!
I SHALL RETURN
YOUR BOXES

I SHALL SPARE YOU AND
IF YOU DO A JOB FOR ME, I
SHALL EVEN GIVE YOU
THOSE BOXES!



ALL RIGHT!
WHAT DO YOU
WANT ME TO DO?



I COME FROM VIDARBHA
SOME OF MY COUNTRYMEN
HAVE BEEN HIDDEN HERE I
WANT TO FIND OUT THE PLACE



AH! THAT SHOULD
■ EASY! CAN I HAVE
THE BOXES?



KEEP THEM!

WHERE ARE YOU STAY
INGHERE? COME WITH ME!



SUMITRA AC-
COMPANIES HIM
TO HIS HIDE-OUT

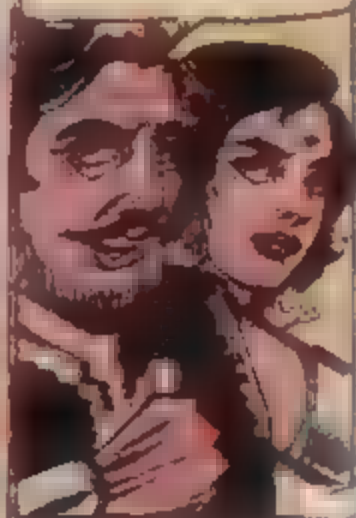


NEELA! HE'LL BE WITH
US FOR SOME DAYS HIS
NAME...

I'M SUMITRA AND
YOUR NAME?



SINGHI DORA
SHE'S NEELA

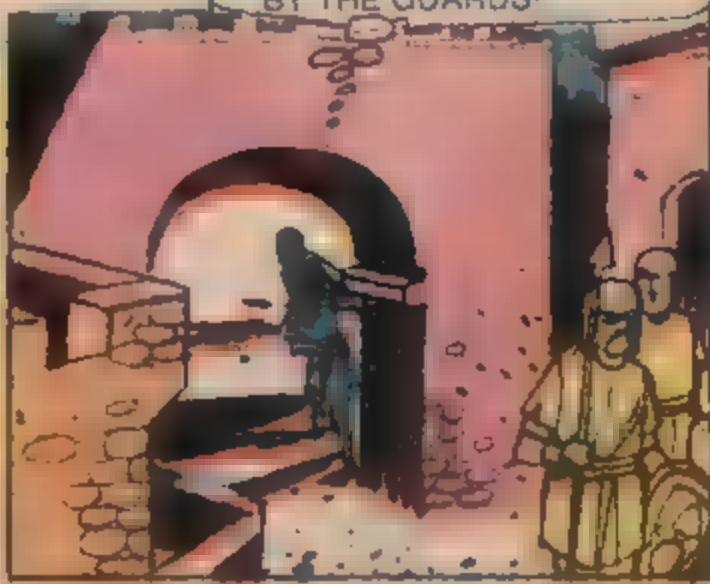


IN THE HIDE-
OUT, AFTER A FEW
DAYS...



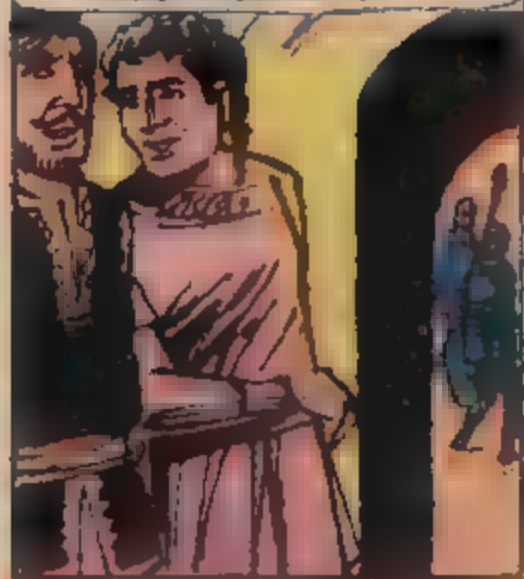
SUMITRA! GOOD NEWS!
I'VE FOUND OUT THE PLACE!

THAT NIGHT...



WE MUST NOT BE SEEN
BY THE GUARDS!

THANK GOD! THEY
HAVEN'T SEEN US!



AN OLD
BUILDING
AT THE
OUT
SKIRTS...



THIS IS THE PLACE!

BE HERE! I SHALL
MEET THEM AND COME
BACK.



SUMITRA ENTERS SLOWLY...

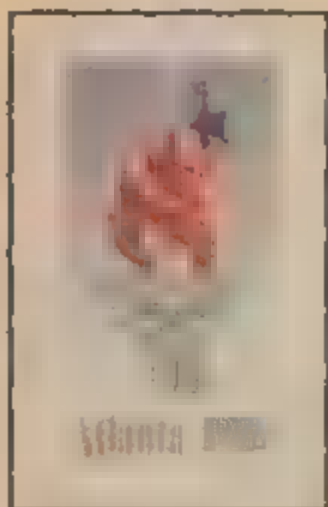


SOMEONE
BEHIND THE
PILLAR HAS
NOTICED
HIM.



THE NEXT
MOMENT





Atlanta Games : A Curtain-raiser

Olympic Flame

The centennial Olympic Games at Atlanta, in the state of Georgia, U.S.A., is another 50 days away, but the Olympic flame that was lit in Athens, Greece, on March 30 has already reached the U.S.A. to be taken along 25,000km in 84 days by 10,000 torch-bearers, before it reaches Atlanta in time for the ceremonial opening of the Games on July 19. After the flame was lit at Ancient Olympia by a high priestess with the help of rays from the sun, a torch was taken from the flame. This torch was taken in relay around the marble stadium by athletes from the 22 host cities, where the modern Olympic Games had been held since 1896. Each one of them covered 200 metres and then the torch went round 2,500 km in Greece alone in a week, at the end of which it burnt for three weeks at the Panathinaic Stadium, where the first of the modern Games was staged 100 years ago. On April 27, the "mother" flame was taken by helicopter on a 14-hour non-stop flight to Los Angeles, in the U.S.A. There, the 1976 decathlon champion Bruce Jenner, of the U.S.A., lit a torch for the 84-day-long relay. Incidentally, the 10,000 elegant-looking torches to be used in the U.S.A. are made of aluminium, brass, and pecan wood. The design is such that the 30-cm flame will not blow out in wind or rain.

Record Participation

The International Olympic Committee had invited as many as 197 nations to take part in the Atlanta Games. Till January, the Committee did not receive any response from North Korea, the only country yet to send a reply. At the intervention of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, North Korea informed the Committee that it would also send a team. That country had boycotted the 1984 and 1988 Games, but had competed in 1992 at Barcelona, which witnessed participation by 169 nations – then a record.

Indian Franchisee

Fomina Incorporated – a company in Atlanta owned by Mathew Verghese, of Kerala, India, is among the franchisees who have won the rights to use the Olympic emblem. The company would brand its leather goods with the familiar five rings. It is not millions of dollars alone that can get the franchise; whatever be the product, it should ensure the highest quality. The Olympic Committee has by now earned more than 60 million dollars from the sale of such rights.

Medals

In all 604 gold, 604 silver, and 630 bronze medals will be won at the Atlanta Games – the biggest the world has ever seen.

What's cooking?

At Atlanta? Nothing much – except that there will be 550 different recipes to choose from for ■ many as 15,000 athletes, coaches, and officials from 197 countries! And who will be serving them? There will be six executive chefs and under them 6,500 employees, including chefs, bakers, waiters, and dishwashers.

SPORTS SNIPPETS

Record in ducks

Nobody will be proud of this world record, least by the one who has made it! And that distinction is with the New Zealand fast bowler Danny Morrison, who earned his 24th duck in Tests on April 29 when his team was playing against West Indies in Antigua. He broke the record of 23 ducks held till then by B.Chandrasekar, of India. But Danny, like a good sportsman, has only looked at the lighter side of his record. He had his reasons: the previous day he had bowled 26 overs without taking a single wicket. He was also fined by the match referee for protesting against a decision. *(Picture at right)*



Four-some record

Shaun Pollock, of South Africa, achieved the incredible feat of taking four wickets in four balls in the fourth over on his debut for Warwickshire against Leicestershire in the first match of the Benson & Hedges Cup cricket tournament at Edgbaston on April 26. At one stage, the visiting team had lost five wickets for just nine runs. After 17 overs, Leicestershire had scored only 44 for 6. And all six wickets were in Pollock's kitty in a 10-over spell. *(Picture at left)*



100-year record goes

This happened on April 20, when Wayne James, captain and wicket-keeper of Matabeleland, in Zimbabwe, held 11 catches in a match played in Bulawayo. In the same match, he had also two stumpings, to make ■ world record of 13 dismissals behind the stumps in first class cricket. The earlier record of 12 dismissals stood in the name of Ted Pooley, who had eight catches and four stumpings for Surrey against Sussex at the Oval in 1868. This was equalled, in 1939 by Don Tallon for Queensland, and in 1968 by Brian Taber for New South Wales (9 catches and 3 stumpings each).



Who was the loser?

Udyog Nagar suddenly became prominent because many people found the place abounding in facilities needed for starting industries and establishing factories. Quite a few of them moved out of towns and settled down in Udyog Nagar. People in search of employment, too, flocked to the place. Arunachal was one of them. He secured a good job and wished to bring his family from the town. He looked for a house, but nothing was easily available. Ultimately he succeeded in finding a suitable house.

"I shall give you the place," said the owner, "but you must pay me five hundred rupees as rent. And that, too, only for twelve months. After a year, you must give back the house to me."

"Sir, it's not as if I don't have a house of my own," said Arunachal. "I've two houses in the town and one of them I've let out without stipulat-

ing any conditions. And the house is much bigger than this one, and I'm charging only five hundred. That's a different matter. I shall pay the rent you've asked for, but if I don't vacate it after a year...?"

"I said one year because my son-in-law is expecting a transfer here," explained the house-owner, "and he and his family must have a place to stay. It won't look nice if I ask my tenant to vacate the place suddenly. That's why I'm giving you adequate notice, so that you can look for alternate accommodation. And in case you don't vacate after one year, then the rent will be two thousand rupees."

Arunachal posed as if he did not hear that part of the conversation. "Suppose your son-in-law doesn't get the transfer after one year. Could I continue to stay here?"

"I won't have any objection," said

the landlord. "But you must pay two thousand rupees. Anyway let's have a signed agreement."

The agreement was prepared and signed, and Arunachal and family started staying there. He paid the rent on the dot, and the landlord was happy. Arunachal found the place quite convenient and comfortable. "I wish I could stay here for the rest of my life!" he exclaimed when he had gone to pay the rent for the twelfth month.

"Rest of your life?" the landlord repeated the words, unbelievably. "Why do you say that? Don't you remember our agreement?"

"Oh, sure!" said Arunachal. "I do remember the terms and conditions. I was merely voicing my happiness. By the way, is your son-in-law coming here on transfer? When is he expected?"

"It's too early to answer all those questions," remarked the landlord. "You're completing twelve months of lease. If you want to stay longer, you must pay a thousand rupees as rent. Nothing less than that. If you're agreeable, you may continue to stay here, otherwise you must vacate by the end of this month."

Arunachal was flabbergasted. One thousand rupees! "That's really unfair, sir," he protested. "How could you



increase the rent by double? Can't you reduce the raise? If it's a hundred rupees, probably I'll be able to afford. And that's just fair. Please re-consider..."

The house-owner did not allow him to complete the sentence. "I don't want any explanation, and I can't accept any requests. Our agreement says two thousand rupees from the second year. But I'm raising it only to a thousand rupees. Mind you, you've signed the agreement." He did not wait for a reply, but left the room.

Arunachal was furious. 'So that's that! Well, let me see what he'll do!'

When he told his wife what had

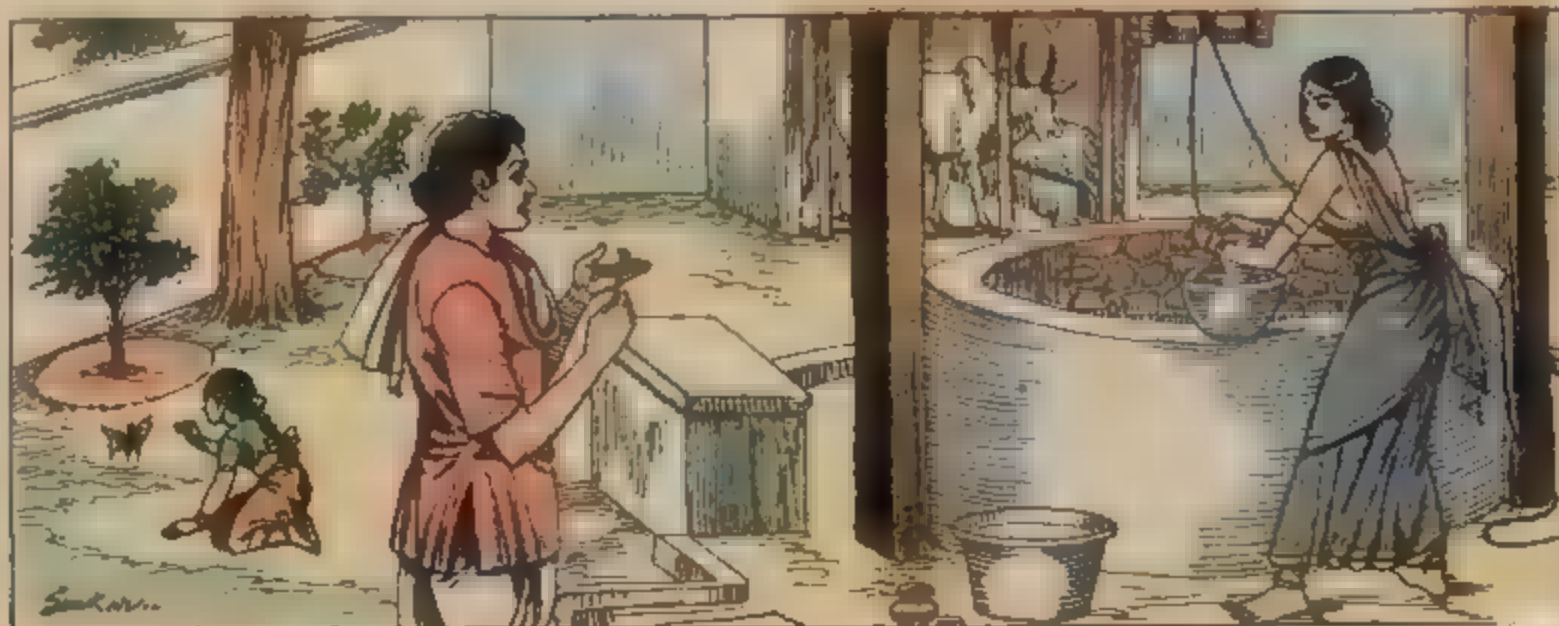
happened, she said: "Why get into trouble? You've searched everywhere for a good place and couldn't get any except this one. Let's continue to stay here after signing a fresh agreement."

It was the thirteenth month. Arunachal did not vacate the house. He went and paid two thousand rupees and signed an agreement for six hundred rupees. "Weren't you foolish?" Arunachalam's wife pulled him up. "You could have done this earlier. Now we've lost one thousand four hundred rupees!" Somehow she could not reconcile to the loss they sustained.

Arunachal pacified her. "The old agreement was that I would pay two thousand rupees every month from the second year. But, now, we'll have to pay only six hundred rupees. Actually, the house-owner stands to lose a thousand and four hundred rupees every month! He must be ruminating!"

The woman looked at her husband. She was not sure whether she should praise him for saving a thousand four hundred rupees every month or find fault with him for agreeing to pay a hundred rupees more every month.

- Credit lost is like ■ broken glass
- Man's life is filled by his foe
- Lose thy fun rather than thy friend
- The more haste, the worse speed
- Let another shipwreck by your beacon



Golden Hour Teasers - No. 2 : Answers

1. **Angkor.** The city of Angkor ■ built by King Vijayavarman and his successors. It flourished for 300 years until abandoned by its rulers and people. Then, overgrown by jungle it lay forgotten for 500 years until Henri Mouhot stumbled upon it. The idol shown at the bottom ■ that of Garuda.

2. **Nowhere!** The Dodo, has been extinct for the last two hundred years.

3.



All the figures shown in the series ■ the mirror images of uneven numbers starting from 1.



4. **Tamasha,** a song and dance form popular in Maharashtra.
5. **Fish!** Andamanese hunt fish with bow and arrow.
6. **The statue ■ be above water even after an hour.** When the water rises, the boat also rises.

The secret formula of Prince Udayana: All the blinded prince had to do was **walk through the cave holding to the right ■ of the ■.**





The Show-off

Sujaya and Vijaya were two close friends of Pandharpur. They went in search of odd jobs, and with whatever they could earn every day, they managed to look after their families. One year, their village suffered severe drought. The days became very difficult as nobody could offer them any work. So, the two friends decided to leave for the nearest town, where they hoped to make a lot of money.

Luck favoured them. Both of them secured decent jobs which brought them a fairly good income. They managed to save some money. When they had made a sizeable amount, Sujaya one day said, "Come on, let's go back to our village. Our folks there should know how successful we have been, and that we were not struggling to eke out a living."

Vijaya approved of the suggestion. "Yes, let's go back, but I don't want to

go empty-handed. I must take something to show off."

Sujaya merely listened to him, as Vijaya reeled out what he might buy for his family and friends. Later, he went round the bazaar and brought a few things worth just about a hundred rupees. On his return, he showed them to Vijaya. "You've bought all cheap things. When we go home, shouldn't we be carrying something costlier?"

"True, but I can't afford to spend that much," remarked Sujaya. "All this is enough for my status."

Vijaya stuck to his views. The next day, he started for the market along with Sujaya. On the way, they met a trader, who was carrying a bundle of clothes to sell. "All my wares are exquisite!" he was shouting at the top of his voice. "Isn't there anybody in this place who would want to buy my stuff and buy them?"

Vijaya stopped him. He helped the trader to lower the bundle to the ground. The man opened the bundle and pulled out a dress. It looked beautiful. Rich in colours, it had silver motifs all over and gold-embroidered collar and sleeves. "It's made of pure silk," the trader claimed. "It's actual price is ten thousand rupees, but I'll give it away for a thousand!"

"Oh, my god!" exclaimed Sujaya. "A mere dress for a thousand rupees?" He hesitated even to feel the cloth.

"All right, I shall buy it," said Vijaya. "But I won't give a thousand rupees for that. Tell me, how much will you really take?"

The trader shook his head. "Not a rupee less, sir," he said. "You may take it for a thousand rupees, or leave it."

Vijaya counted the money he had with him. He was short by a hundred rupees. He borrowed the amount from Sujaya and paid the trader all of thousand rupees and took the dress from him.

As they walked towards the market, Sujaya asked him, "Who are you gifting that costly dress to?"

"What a question!" Vijaya responded. "After spending so much,



do you think I'll gift it away? I'm going to wear it myself. And after wearing it, I shall go round, especially where people gather. When they see me in this dress, they would feel high of me. They would show respect to me."

"I don't want to comment on that," said Sujaya. "But one thing I must say. I think it was foolish to have bought such a costly dress. However, I don't want you to have such a feeling."

Vijaya did not relish those words very much. "There's no point in buying costly things and gifting them away. One must enjoy them oneself."

On their way back to their village, they came to a pond. "It's a long time since I had had a dip in a pond," said Vijaya. "I shall take a bath, put on that dress, and then reach the village. You need not wait for me."

Sujaya, therefore, went ahead alone. When he reached the village, he met some of his friends. He distributed the gifts he had taken with him. They were happy. "Where's Vijaya?" they all asked him.

"He'll be here shortly," Sujaya told them. "He has gone for a bath in the pond. He also wants to wear a newly bought costly dress."

When they heard this, they were curious, so they waited for Vijaya. By

and by, he reached the village and the friends surrounded him. "Sujaya told us that you had bought a costly dress. Where's it?" they queried.

"That's the one I'm wearing! Can't you see?" said Vijaya, angrily.

"You mean this?" They asked in unison. "The one you're wearing? It looks like some costume used in dramas!"

"You paid a fortune for this artificial stuff?" one of the friends said sneeringly. "You've been cheated, Vijaya!"

"That's not true!" said Vijaya in haste. "I really did pay a thousand rupees for it. See the silver motifs and the zari embroidery on the collar



and the sleeves! The actual price was ten thousand rupees, but the trader gave it to me for a thousand. Ask Sujaya. He was with me at that time."

The friends now turned to Sujaya. "Were you with him when he bought the dress?" they asked him. "As a good friend, you should have warned him; you should have advised him! You should not have allowed him to be cheated."

"Don't blame him," hastened Vijaya. "In fact, Sujaya did not approve of my purchase. It was my selection and my decision. But he shouldn't have told you about the dress in advance. You were thus expecting to see me wearing a really costly dress. Naturally you were all disappointed. But if you had seen me in the same dress without any advance indication or hint, you might have been surprised."

In the following days, Vijaya went about the village meeting his friends. And every day, he made it a point to wear that dress. "How're you, Vijaya?" his friends would enquire, but no one commented on the gorgeous looking dress he was wearing!

Their silence about the dress annoyed him. Sometimes he would himself broach the subject. "How do



you like my dress?"

"Not bad." That was the reply he invariably got from them.

The two friends spent a few days in their village and once again started for the town. "Sujaya, you take care of Vijaya," their friends advised him. Turning to Vijaya they said: "Vijaya, take his advice always, and follow his directions."

Vijaya remained silent for most of the time as they proceeded to the town. "Look at that! Don't you think our friends are selfish? They respect you because you gave them gifts, though they were no costly gifts. I didn't give them anything. They did



not have a word of praise for the costly dress I wore. What partiality! I don't think I'll wish to go back to Pandharpur."

"Don't blame others, without understanding yourself, Vijaya!" said Sujaya. "You can't impress them by spending on costly things for yourself. By wearing a costly dress, what did they gain? Nothing. So, why should they praise you or the dress? Even a small gift, costing very little,

would have brought them closer to you. Instead of that, you were being selfish by spending everything on yourself. That's not wisdom. If you had bought for them things worth even ten rupees, they would have been sincerely grateful to you. Just think about it. By showing off to others won't achieve anything."

By the time they reached the town, Vijaya had realized the truth in what his friend was saying.

- Conscience is equal to a thousand witnesses
- ☺ He spends best that spares to spend again
- Money spent on the brain is never spent in vain
- Punctuality is the soul of business
- Providence may change, but the promise must stand
- A beggar envies ■ beggar, a poet a poet



What is meant by the 'poverty line'?

– R. Srikanth, Madras

The group of people who lack even the barest means of living, with no source of income, are supposed to be below the poverty line, as per certain norms fixed by the authorities. In India, nearly 30 per cent of the population is generally taken as people living below the poverty line. Special efforts are made in the country's economy to raise their standard of living, say, by providing employment to all able-bodied persons and distributing food items free of cost.

Which country is known as the land of skyscrapers? Why is it called?

– Sarat Chandra, Hyderabad

The first skyscraper came up in New York, in the U.S.A., in 1868. The land prices there were so high that people could not think of large buildings with horizontal dimensions. So, they decided on vertical expansion, and any building that appeared to "scrape" or touch the skies came to be called a skyscraper. In Manhattan, an island off New York, came up the Empire State Building in 1931 – then the tallest, with 102 storeys (381 metres). Then came the twin towers of the World Trade Center (415m). The Sears Tower in Chicago is 443m. Almost all the cities in the U.S.A. have such high-rise buildings, and so it can be called the land of skyscrapers. Right now the Canadian National Tower in Toronto (555m) is the world's tallest building. Malaysia, we are told, is constructing a building that will eclipse the CN Tower.

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By reading *CHANDAMAMA* the young becomes old, and the old becomes young.

– Hema, Jayanagar, Bangalore.

Why don't you publish "Towards Better English" in book form?

– Swapna Kasturi, Hyderabad.

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S.G. SESHAGIRI

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PICKS FROM THE WISE

Better to reign in hell than to serve in heaven

– MILTON

Modesty is not only an ornament but also ■ guard to virtue.

– Addison

Ghosts only come to those who look for them.

– Holbein

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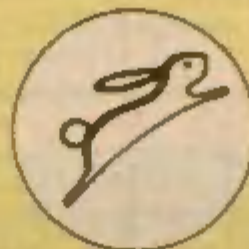


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I'm planting a Tulsi tree.
Hope it grows into a
B-I-I-G one.



Lovable, blind Chacha
Kunwar. He's been my
parents' guide. The least
I can do is help him
move safely.



Aha! This time Dad's
got the flu and Mum's
told me to give him a
dose of medicine.



Gangu Bai has coolly
taken the day off. Leaving
Radha Mausi and me in a
soapy mess.



Before that rich glutton
of a Raju snatches my
Kaju Barfi, let me give it
to poor Smita.



Naughty Timmy has got
himself hurt. Now this ill
Doc will set him right.



I'm helping Uncle Rajeev
with the car repairs.
Though Mum said "I'll be
a spanner in the works".



With Chandra, my maths
teacher, numbers are fun.
Time I gave her a dozen
smiling roses.



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